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United Nations (AFP) — Britain, France and the United States said Wednesday they want tighter U.N. sanctions imposed against Libya next week if Tripoli does not give a firm pledge to hand over the Lockerbie suspects. The three co-sponsors have the intention of moving to a vote next week if there hasn't been a decisive move by the Libyans. A Western diplomat who attended Wednesday's Security Council meeting said the three countries made their position clear to the council after Secretary General Boutros Ghali reported to the meeting that he had made no progress in efforts to persuade Libya to hand over the men. Dr. Ghali told the meeting he had informed Libya that the Security Council wanted a "firm and specific" pledge from Tripoli to hand over the men, but that this had not been forthcoming. Diplomats said: The United States told the session that unless there was a change in Libya's position, the Security Council should vote on the resolution "as soon as is practicable." A diplomat who attended the meeting said, in a bid to stave off new sanctions, Libya has said it is now prepared to let the two men go to Scotland to stand trial for blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in 1988 killing 270 people, but that it cannot force them to go.

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Queen addresses Atlanta meeting

ATLANTA (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday called for more attention to be paid to repeated calls to end war as one of the means to solve conflicts and promote democracy, human rights, education and social security. In the fifth and final meeting of the International Committee for Peace held at Carter's Centre, the Queen pointed to the committee's vital role in developing new perspectives and strategies to safeguard peace, promote development and social security.

Guerrilla killed in clash, SLA says

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — Israeli troops killed an Arab guerrilla in South Lebanon Wednesday during a clash involving anti-tank rockets and automatic weapons, Israel's allied militia said. The firefight erupted after soldiers intercepted guerrillas at Tiri in the northern part of Israel's self-declared "security zone," a South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia official said.

Iran releases 19 Kuwaitis

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Iran has released 19 Kuwaitis, including two officers, who were seized on fishing boats last week in the northern Gulf. The Interior Ministry said Wednesday. They returned home late Tuesday and their five boats were also released, it said, praising Iranian authorities for their cooperation. The ministry made no comment on a Kuwait Times newspaper report that the two officers had been interrogated in Iran on suspicion of spying. There was also no explanation of why the officers were on board the fishing vessels.

Mitterrand against resuming tests

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand said Wednesday he was against resuming French nuclear weapons tests for the time being after China broke an unofficial world moratorium by testing an atomic device (see page 8). Mr. Mitterrand said in an interview with Austrian news media: "Of course, if countries other than China were to take the initiative, France would be forced to continue its own tests to ensure that it is called the threshold of sufficiency." But it will not give the signal itself.

Ghali wants UNIKOM extension

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Secretary General Boutros Ghali has called for a six-month extension of the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) along the border between the two countries. Dr. Ghali warned in a report to the Security Council made public Wednesday that the current calm along the border between the two countries should not make them forget that tension still persists in the area. The U.N. mission currently has some 300 military observers,

U.S. pays up on U.N. debt

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The United States has paid the United Nations \$533 million in back payments, meeting more than half of its accumulated debt, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday. The United States made the payment late Tuesday and now has \$472 million left to pay, Joe Silis said.

Sharif claims win

LAHORE (R) — Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif claimed victory in Wednesday's general elections for his Pakistan Muslim League party on the basis of his party's early unofficial count. "The majority of seats have been won by the Pakistan Muslim League," a jubilant Sharif told reporters, his powerbase of Lahore.

PLO, Israel to start self-rule talks Oct. 13

Arafat, Rabin meet in Cairo to sort out autonomy

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat got "down to business" at their first formal meeting Wednesday, assigning four committees to iron out differences over their peace accord. Two committees designated to discuss implementing self-rule for Palestinians in parts of the occupied territories will meet in Egypt on Oct. 13, one in Cairo and the other in the northern Sinai resort of Tabá. Both former adversaries said their 90-minute encounter at Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's Unity Palace was held in a "positive" atmosphere.

Yet indicative of the lingering distrust between their peoples, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat avoided appearing in public together and tried to shroud in mystery whether they even shook hands. Rabin aides said they did, but nobody else witnessed it. They held separate news conferences, each delegation taking care to leave the room before the other entered. Mr. Rabin had asked for the summit. Israeli officials said, concerned that only a high-level meeting could break a procedural deadlock about how to carry out the agreement signed on the White House lawn Sept. 13.

He was worried that without quick implementation, the peace accord could be foiled by Palestinian unrest in the occupied territories. The two leaders' main message was the same: They had agreed to set up a liaison committee at ministerial level to supervise all future peace talks and a negotiating team to work out details of an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Both groups would meet on Oct. 13, the day the declaration of principles officially comes into effect. The liaison committee would meet in Tabá, just over the border from Israel. "We are committed to whatever we signed but it is not enough to sign. You have to translate through negotiations into reality," Mr. Rabin said. Mr. Arafat declared: "The meeting was useful and positive and we hope that we will be able to carry out what has been agreed on paper on the ground smoothly and easily."

Peres: Independence for all final aim

LISBON (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday that the aim of the Middle East process was independence for all, while stressing the urgent need for an agreement between Israel and Jordan. Speaking at the opening of the Socialist International council here, Mr. Peres said a tripartite accord between Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians was essential if the Middle East conflict was to be settled. "We need this triangle... I can see an agreement between Jordanians and ourselves," he said, adding that the final aim of the process was "independence for all and to live as real neighbours."

His comments came the same day as his Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Cairo to discuss the Israel-PLO accord signed in Washington last month. Mr. Peres, describing the peace process as unstoppable, said the Middle East "has to move from an impossible situation to the creation of a new situation that will permit full agreement and an acceptable map to the two parties."

"We will build a new Middle East — he said, adding: "We were not only in conflict with Arabs and Palestinians, we were in conflict with ourselves... our only enemy is war." He said the Benelux countries (Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland) provided a model for the new Middle East, adding that he hoped the PLO would become "a successful reality, politically, economically and socially."

Yeltsin confirms elections

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Boris Yeltsin confirmed Wednesday that elections for a new Russian federal legislature would take place on Dec. 12 as planned despite the violence that wracked Moscow earlier this week. Mr. Yeltsin, in a television address to the nation, also said elections might be held at the same time for regional, city and local legislatures. He said regional and local parliaments, known as Soviets, "which adopted an irreconcilable position must... take the dignified and courageous decision to dissolve themselves and go peacefully and in a civilised manner, without upheaval or scandal."

Rabin wants secret talks with Syria

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview published Wednesday that secret negotiations were needed to make progress towards peace with Syria. Mr. Rabin, speaking to the English-language daily Jerusalem Post, also said he was disappointed that the autonomy accord signed Sept. 13 had not brought a greater dividend in relations with the Arab World.

The prime minister said he was disappointed that the peace talks with Syria had made little progress, noting that President Hafez Al Assad had said his people were not ready for peace. "I don't expect him to do what President (Anwar) Sadat of Egypt did when he came to Jerusalem, but at least he more

forthcoming, show his readiness for peace," Mr. Rabin said. Mr. Rabin reiterated the Israeli position that the extent of withdrawal from the Golan Heights would depend on the extent of Syria's commitment to peace. The prime minister said it might take secret talks to make any progress. The Syrians have rejected such advances previously.

Clinton studies Somalia options

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton met with his top national security advisers and Democratic leaders Wednesday amid a clamour in Congress for a quick exit from Somalia in the face of rising U.S. casualties. The president planned to move quickly to ease Congress's fears by setting forth clear objectives and a timeframe for the U.S. mission in Somalia, participants said. "They will be clarifying the timeframe, what they are trying to do, how they are going to get a tighter rein on the (peacekeeping) operations and how they are going to provide more security for the troops which are there at the time being," said Representative Pat Schroeder of Colorado after the meeting.



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (center) and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (left) listen to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (right) during their meeting in Cairo Wednesday (AFP photo)

Crown Prince meets Ghali after addressing assembly

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met at the United Nations headquarters in New York Wednesday with Secretary General Boutros Ghali and discussed efforts to help establish stability and security in the Middle East as well as the United Nations' role in this regard, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The Crown Prince also met with Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid and reviewed with him the latest developments in the Middle East peace process. Also discussed were efforts to end differences among Arab countries.

Following the meeting, Dr. Abdul Meguid said Prince Hassan's address to the United Nations General Assembly Tuesday expressed not only Jordanian views but also those of the Arab Nation, especially in matters like Jerusalem, refugees and a Middle East comprehensive settlement. In his speech, Crown Prince Hassan urged Arab states to insist on a global solution to conflict in the Middle East, rather than allowing Israel to sign separate agreements with each neighbour.

He also urged the United Nations to take a hard look at its sanctions against Iraq in order to ensure a lasting peace. Noting that Jordan and Israel had reached agreement on a timetable for a peace agreement, Prince Hassan called for "just and mutually satisfactory solutions."

Clinton studies Somalia options

Combined agency dispatches WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton met with his top national security advisers and Democratic leaders Wednesday amid a clamour in Congress for a quick exit from Somalia in the face of rising U.S. casualties. The president planned to move quickly to ease Congress's fears by setting forth clear objectives and a timeframe for the U.S. mission in Somalia, participants said. "They will be clarifying the timeframe, what they are trying to do, how they are going to get a tighter rein on the (peacekeeping) operations and how they are going to provide more security for the troops which are there at the time being," said Representative Pat Schroeder of Colorado after the meeting.

Calling U.S. policy in Somalia a failure, Republicans earlier demanded that Mr. Clinton explain how he plans to win the release of captured American soldiers and achieve an orderly withdrawal of U.S. forces there. "Americans deserve an explanation for what has become a national tragedy," the 65 house Republicans, including minority leader Bob Michel said in a letter to Mr. Clinton. Many Democrats also have urged a reassessment of U.S. policy following a bloody battle in Mogadishu over the weekend in which 12 U.S. soldiers were killed, 75 were wounded, a U.S. pilot was captured and other troops were missing.

Television images of the frightened pilot, his face cut and bruised, and of a body reported to be that of an American being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu have further fired public emotions. Instant polls found that Americans by a large majority — 64 per cent in one poll — support a quick pullout, while a majority 51 per cent in another — also favoured efforts to capture Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aided. U.S. helicopters patrolled the skies over Mogadishu, the Somali capital, Wednesday, but the city otherwise was eerily quiet.

Jordan and the fast-moving events — the peace option had to prevail

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HAVING MADE up his mind not to "scuttle" the PLO-Israel agreement for Palestinian autonomy that was reached in Oslo in late August, because "I don't think I would have been able to live with myself" afterwards, His Majesty King Hussein hesitated on what to do next in order to stay on top of the events that were taking place with dizzying speed in the Middle East. He had the option of being the reluctant player, which is the role Hafez Assad of Syria has chosen for himself for now, or Jordan could jump on the train and hope to

influence its direction. Everything was at stake for the Kingdom, the future characteristically uncertain. There were crucial decisions to be made, and they were all interdependent on what safe place, the King could find for Jordan in the "political Disneyland" that others were building around him, as he aptly put it to Mohammed Haikal, the prominent Egyptian writer. First and foremost, there was the issue of the multi-party elections which the Monarch had called for Nov. 8 to optimise his determination on pressing ahead with democratising this country. Exactly four years earlier, Jordan held the first free and

fair elections in nearly 40 years, in what has been viewed as a solid step towards becoming a democratic model for the other countries in the region. Largely as a result of the King's initial reaction to the Oslo accord, a number of Jordanian groups and politicians established a broad, albeit informal, coalition calling for the postponement of the elections. Their ranks included credible and unquestionably loyal figures and their arguments touched sensitive chords with the King and many fellow citizens. Some insisted that the elections would turn into a single issue campaign, or a referendum,

on the PLO-Israel agreement, with its opponents, mainly the Islamists and the radicals, gaining the upper hand in the next Parliament. Others contended that the electorate was not democratically mature enough to handle the debate over an issue as sensitive as the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, particularly that the Oslo accord was reached behind Jordan's back and viewed by many as a sell-out. The unacceptability of Palestinian double voting here and for the Palestinian legislative council envisaged in the accord was also an argument that the Jordanian "nationalists" advanced with success. It would be only

right, they said, if elections in Jordan and the occupied territories were held simultaneously, in which case the picture of who would be able to go back or stay, and according to what status, would be clearer. Up until the last moment before a decision had to be made, this last argument seemed to have won the day. The King had made up his mind, according to all sources, that the elections would be postponed until July, at the earliest, when the Palestinians in the occupied territories have voted for their own parliament.

The surprise came in the afternoon of Sept. 28, when Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali announced that the elections would be held on time, after all, giving no explanation as to what had actually happened. The reasons that led the King to "reverse" the decision on the issue are unknown until now, but the absence of hard information has only whetted the appetite of politicians and observers to analyse and speculate on what led him to act this way. An alleged meeting at Aqaba between the King and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Sept. 26, in which the Israelis reassured Jordan on a host of serious concerns to the Kingdom is cited by many as the major and a direct reason for the

reversal of position. Despite official denials by both sides that the meeting ever took place, there were numerous claims on the exchange between the two leaders. One was that Mr. Rabin urged the King to go ahead with holding the elections on time. Because Israel wanted to make legitimate peace with the Jordanian people, not just with the regime. Another spoke of an Israeli pledge to annex the emerging Palestinian entity to Jordan. A third merely mentioned that the prime minister informed the King that the process of taking back Palestinian refugees from the

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'Don Quixote' of UAE stops history

By Nadim Kawash
Agence France Presse

BATHNA, United Arab Emirates — History has come to a standstill for a "Don Quixote" at an ancient fort in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Old Saeed entered the castle nearly seven decades ago to seek refuge from a tribal conflict and is still holed up inside, refusing to accept the dramatic transformation of his country.

Clad in the traditional bedouin dishdasha and headgear, Saeed bin Jumma Al Hijiari carries the sword and dagger he was given by the fort's ruler, who had admired his courage and appointed him one of its guards.

"I entered the fort when I was a young man... maybe 20 or 25. I sought protection from tribal revenge and the ruler felt sorry for me and gave me haven," the bearded, bare-footed man said at the fort in this UAE village.

"He then appointed me one of the fort's seven guards because I was a brave and strong man. All the people have now gone except me. The fort has become my home. I do not want to leave it and see all these strangers in my country."

The fort, which dates back more than 250 years, was built by Sheikh Abdullah Al Sharqi, one of the then tribal leaders in the UAE emirate of Fujairah in the Gulf of Oman.

It had been used as a military garrison to protect the area against tribal raids.

Once thriving with life, the castle and the remote mountain village of Bathna are deserted except for old Saeed. Most of the residents moved to the other side of the wadi around 250 kilometres east of Abu Dhabi.

His collapsing structure is now in sharp contrast with the modern life that started to spring up with the discovery of oil three decades ago.

Mud houses and bedouin tents were replaced by concrete homes and villas, sand dunes were filled with streets and factories, and camels gave way to luxury cars.

But the most significant change is that the UAE people have become a minority in their own country after hundreds of thousands of foreign workers began to stream in with the oil boom.

Saeed, in his 90s, appeared unimpressed by all these historical and cultural changes. He has let his white beard grow down to the middle of his chest.

A large part of the fort has collapsed, including one of its two towers. Saeed has chosen the other tower as his home.

"I am still the guard of the fort. The keys are always in my belt. I only open it on orders from the ruler (the ruler) of the village when some people are coming to visit," Saeed said.

Saeed went on to describe how they had lived in the past and how they had to chase thieves and smugglers. Life was difficult, he recalled, and people were struggling to survive.

"We used to take turns in guarding the fort at night," he said.

"When someone passed by, we shouted at him. If he answered and if we knew him, then we would let him go on. Otherwise we fired warning shots and if he still didn't answer, we mounted our horses and chased him."

Rabin wants secret talks with Syria

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Mr. Christopher said the meeting seemed "appropriate and natural" in light of dramatic events in the Middle East peace process "so we can talk about where we go from here."

Neither Mr. Sharaa nor Mr. Christopher mentioned any specific topics under discussion.

However, when Mr. Christopher was asked whether the rare Washington meeting signalled any change in the U.S. position that Syria is a sponsor

of "terrorism," he responded with a flat "no."

The Syrian delegation and U.S. officials had a working lunch that lasted more than three hours.

State Department spokesman Mike McCurdy said later that the subject of a U.S.-Syrian summit did not come up during the Sharaa-Christopher talks.

"Obviously, we would also take the position that we don't want any of the discussions at this point to be just marking time," said McCurdy, noting the possibility that the next

round of bilateral talks between Israel and the Arabs would take place in Washington.

Mr. Assad said in a television interview broadcast Friday that the talks that began in October 1991 would not make progress until Israel showed more enthusiasm for the peace talks and bargained seriously.

Mr. Christopher said that Washington was prepared to help Syria and Israel reach an accord, while stressing that they were both sovereign nations and that Washington would not make decisions for

them. The secretary of state plans to travel to the region in November, according to State Department sources.

Mr. Sharaa had Mr. Christopher also discussed the Jewish communities in Syria and Lebanon, said Mr. McCurdy.

Mr. McCurdy said the two men discussed Lebanon but declined to give details. The United States recently indicated it intended to treat Lebanon as a full partner in the peace process, and not just a client of Syria.

PLO, Israel to start talks Oct. 13

(Continued from page 1)

Bank for an interim period of five years.

Mr. Rabin added that he and Mr. Arafat had also agreed to set up an economic committee and details would be worked out at the liaison committee meeting in Cairo on Oct. 13.

Mr. Arafat said he had appointed Faisal Al Hussein, the pre-eminent Palestinian figure in Jerusalem, to discuss issues relating to Jerusalem with an Israeli representative to be named by Mr. Rabin.

Mr. Rabin did not mention the point, which is likely to provoke fierce criticism from the right-wing opposition in

Israel and perhaps from some supporters from his own Labour Party.

There are practical issues such as responsibility for schools, hospitals and other services in East Jerusalem which Mr. Rabin could argue need to be discussed and do not prejudice Israel's claim to "sovereignty" over the whole city.

Mr. Arafat played down the issue of Israel's crackdown on Palestinians in the occupied territories, which has nettled some of Mr. Arafat's own supporters. He said he had raised it with Mr. Rabin and heard his views and it would be discussed again at the next meeting.

In published comments Wednesday, Mr. Rabin has ruled out a mass return of Palestinian refugees to the occupied territories under the autonomy accord.

"If they expect tens of thousands, they live in a dream, an illusion," Mr. Rabin told the English-language Jerusalem Post.

Asked to comment on Palestinian assertions that 800,000 refugees were entitled to return under the Sept. 13 accord, he retorted: "Nonsense. The figure is nonsense. It has to be agreed on."

Mr. Arafat raised the question of Palestinian prisoners in his meeting with Mr. Rabin.

"We have been promised that they (the prisoners) will not be transferred from their places now and it will be on the agenda of the working groups," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben Ari said Wednesday's meeting was an attempt to "get down to business" about implementing the peace agreement. He said the atmosphere was "businesslike."

Mr. Rabin said the talks, conducted in English, centred on "how to get the wagons moving" towards withdrawal of Israel's army and self-rule for Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho.

"I believe it's a very good beginning towards implementation of the declaration of principles," Mr. Rabin added.

Clinton will press for Mideast peace — Berger

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A senior White House official says the Clinton administration will press hard for peace throughout the Middle East region — following up on the historic Israel-PLO accord.

Sandy Berger, deputy assistant to the president for national security affairs, spoke to the Washington chapter of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Tuesday.

Calling the Israel-PLO accord "momentous and historic," Mr. Berger told his audience that this is no time for any party to the process "to be paralysed by fear" of change and called on all to "nurture the hope and overcome the apprehension" bred by past conflict.

Mr. Berger told the AJC that the "first pillar" of the administration's approach to the Mideast peace process "is the relationship between the United States and Israel." Mr. Berger added the administration wants to help create conditions that make it "possible for

Israel to make peace," and not accept a peace that would imperil its security.

Noting President Clinton's "relationship of trust" with the Israeli leadership, Mr. Berger said the breakthrough in the peace process came after the administration urged Israel's Arab negotiating partners to "negotiate directly with Israel." Thus, he said, the agreement was "reached by the parties themselves" and "they negotiated the compromises they will have to live with."

Stressing the administration's "ironclad commitment" to Israel's security, Mr. Berger noted that despite the dwindling congressional tolerance for foreign aid programmes, the administration is working to maintain the aid level for Israel.

Mr. Berger said the "second pillar" of the peace process is to ensure the successful implementation of the Israel-PLO agreement — by such means as

the Oct. 13 donor's conference, at which 43 nations pledged their political and financial backing for the process.

Mr. Berger noted that the White House recently hosted a meeting between the Crown Prince of Jordan and foreign minister of Israel in order to lay the foundation for Jordanian involvement in peace implementation.

Mr. Berger stressed the importance of achieving "tangible improvements" in the lives of Palestinians, to demonstrate that "peace is better than war."

The third pillar, he said, must be "a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict." In order to achieve this, he said, the Clinton administration must be able to demonstrate that "when Israel takes risks for peace, the Arab world responds."

Mr. Clinton, he said, is "insisting that the Arab world end the boycott of Israel." The Arab states, he emphasised,

"can not talk about a new era of peace while continuing to practice economic warfare" against Israel. Mr. Berger urged Arab states to "move now to normalise their relations with Israel."

Mr. Berger said that, in his view, rejectionist groups in the region are in "disarray" and that at the moment "the only serious state sponsorship" of these groups comes from Iran. He warned that "normal commercial relations with Iran" do not serve Western interests, given Iran's hostility to the peace process.

Mr. Berger said the biggest challenge in the peace process now is making peace between Syria and Israel. He said the administration believes Syrian President Hafez Al Assad "has made a strategic decision to make peace with Israel."

Mr. Berger was optimistic about the peace process and the achievement of a comprehensive settlement in the region.

NGOs seek participation in Palestinian development

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The successful development of the West Bank and Gaza will depend less on how much money is funnelled into the territories than on the way it is spent, according to representatives of several U.S.-based non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The World Bank's recent estimate of \$2,400 million in development needs over a five-year period "is fairly adequate, if it's used for the right purposes," Peter Gubser, president of American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), said during a Tuesday press briefing.

The bulk of international development aid should go to building roads and to modernising the "abysmal" water, sewerage, telephone and communications systems in the occupied territories, Mr. Gubser said.

The money should also be used in ways that utilise and complement the vast network of NGOs already functioning there, he added.

Julia Taft, president of InterAction, noted that the

World Bank report made no mention of the more than 600 NGOs working in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, or of their contributions to agriculture, health, education and women's programmes.

"The World Bank study is very fine, as far as it goes. But it doesn't go far enough," Mr. Gubser said. "It does not deal with the NGO sector and so it does not deal with the grass roots... that are the basis of society."

The West Bank, for example, "has a richness of indigenous NGOs" at all levels, Mr. Gubser added. "It is not a tabula rasa."

Ms. Taft explained that her organisation, a coalition of over 150 U.S.-based non-profit groups, has begun a dialogue with the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development to ensure that NGOs are part of the overall American aid package.

She and Mr. Gubser were joined at the briefing by Randall Harshbarger, Save the Children field office director in the West Bank and Gaza; William Recant, Washington rep-

resentative for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; David Taylor, director of international programmes for World Vision; and Andrzej Griffl, executive director of American Jewish World Services.

They agreed that if the approximately \$2,000 million pledged by the international community is to promote peace between Israelis and Palestinians, it must have a real impact on the daily lives of the Palestinian people. And they argued that NGOs are ideally suited to provide the services — such as job training and agricultural development — that can revitalise a population.

"We want to make sure that the hopes of the people are not dashed by inaction or long-term infrastructure programmes," said Ms. Taft. "We want to seize the opportunity for some quick-impact programmes in the social service sector."

Others in the group cautioned, however, that the desire to "make a splash" im-

mediately should be balanced against long-term needs.

Mr. Harshbarger of Save the Children worried that money "could be wasted in boondoggle projects that are big-ticket and high-visibility... and gain a lot of applause and credit for the donors." Meanwhile, he continued, "the real business of grass-roots development — of trying to reach the poor, the marginal, women, the camp-dwellers and the village dwellers... may be ignored."

Similarly, Mr. Gubser described suggestions for building an airport in Jericho and a seaport in Gaza as wrongheaded. "These are not what is needed," he said. "What is needed are sewers and water systems and electrical systems." He pointed out that well-designed, long-term programmes can have positive short-term benefits as well. "There would be nothing wrong with starting (these projects) in a hurry, and creating some jobs in the process," he said.

Noting that unemployment is one of the biggest problems in the occupied territories,

Iran, UAE ministers meet in New York

DUBAI (Agencies) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, whose country is locked in a row with the United Arab Emirates over three Gulf islands, met his UAE counterpart Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi in New York, the Emirates News Agency (WAM) said on Tuesday.

The two ministers, in New York to attend a session of the U.N. General Assembly, discussed the latest developments in the Gulf and the two countries' relations, it said.

The UAE cancelled a ministerial visit to Iran last month saying Tehran's refusal to discuss sovereignty claims over Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs meant there was no point in the visit going ahead.

Iran said at the time "these islands are Iranian and will remain Iranian."

The cancellation of the visit marked an escalation of tension between the two neighbours just a few months after a visit by Mr. Velayati to Abu Dhabi in May, which appeared to break the deadlock with the promise of direct talks.

The row between Iran and the UAE surfaced in April last year when Iranian authorities on Abu Musa expelled foreigners who operated utilities for the UAE government on its side of the shared island.

In a statement to the U.N. General Assembly on Monday Mr. Nuaimi said his country had "expressed its readiness and sincere desire to enter into direct negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Iran" over the dispute.

But "the islands belong to the UAE," he added.

Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati is due shortly in Riyadh to arrange a "historic" summit between President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and King Fahd, the Tehran Times reported Wednesday.

The English-language daily, quoting Parliamentarian Jalal Sadatani, said Mr. Velayati could go to Saudi Arabia on his way back from New York.

The Iranian news agency (IRNA) said Mr. Velayati had left New York for Seoul to pay the first visit by an Iranian foreign minister to South Korea since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UNESCO plans Arab-Israeli parley

PARIS (R) — The United Nations Cultural agency, keen to do its bit for Middle East peace, has invited Arab and Israeli intellectuals to meet in Spain in December to seek ways to overcome "the culture of war." Federico Mayor, director-general of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), said academics and journalists from several countries, including Syria and Lebanon, had accepted invitations to a conference in the southern city of Granada on Dec. 9 and 10. Mr. Mayor said the meeting, first planned before last month's historic peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), had the backing of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat. "We were going to call it 'Peace Tomorrow.' But now, since the latest unexpected events, we are going to change the title and call it 'Peace Today,'" he said. A previous attempt to hold the conference broke down after Israel expelled more than 400 Palestinians last December, Mr. Mayor said. The idea was to enable intellectuals in an informal setting to discuss overcoming cultural hostility between Arabs and Jews and proposing measures which could be supported by UNESCO to promote cooperation and understanding. A letter of invitation to Israeli, Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian and Egyptian intellectuals said the aim was to achieve an intellectual and spiritual transformation of Israeli and Palestinian society to move gradually "from a culture of war to a culture of peace."

Turkey releases German-based student

HANOVER, Germany (R) — The Turkish army has released a student from Turkish Kurdistan who worked as a translator for a German human rights group, the group's lawyer said. Nulifer Koc, a Turk who grew up in the northern German city of Bremen, disappeared in the town of Sirnak on Sept. 28. The group's lawyer, Thorsten Rueckold, said she disappeared after getting threats from the military, and that a Turkish human rights group discovered she was being held by the army. On Tuesday Mr. Rueckold said Ms. Koc had turned up at a hotel in the Turkish city of Diyarbakir, in the Kurdish region, and been reunited with members of her group. The governments of Bremen and Lower Saxony, along with Parliamentary President Rita Suessmuth, had urged Turkey to secure Ms. Koc's release. Lower Saxony State Justice Minister Heidi Alm-Merk said she feared Ms. Koc might be tortured. Turkish authorities gave no reason for Ms. Koc's detention. But Turkey's honorary consul in Bremen, Karl Grabbe, said she was a leading member of a student organisation which had contacts with the banned Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), fighting a bloody war for secession from Turkey.

Floods, landslides hit Caspian coast

NICOSIA (R) — Floods and landslides caused by three days of heavy rain destroyed houses, roads and farms and killed at least one person along Iran's Caspian coast, Iranian media said Tuesday. The floods and rising seas caused damage estimated at billions of rials (millions of dollars) in 16 cities in Mazandaran province north of Tehran, state television said. Landslides in a mountainous part of the province destroyed 15 houses. One person was killed and four were missing, it said. Thirty hectares of citrus groves and tea farms were washed away, the television added. A landslide in Amash district in neighbouring Gilan province destroyed more than 100 houses. IRNA news agency said. Tehran Radio said 200 millimetres of rain fell in Gilan since Sunday. Floods cut off roads to dozens of villages and water stood 80 centimetres deep in the main port of Bandar Anzali.

Turkey takes back 59 Iraqi boat people

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has taken back 59 Iraqi Christians intercepted at sea on their way to the Greek island of Lesbos, a military official said Tuesday. The official, in the northwestern port of Ayvacik, said the Iraqis — 11 children, 12 women and 36 men — were being questioned for possible breaches of Turkey's immigration law. A Romanian boatman who took them to Lesbos, about 12 kilometres from the Turkish coast, on Monday was also in custody but two Iraqi women had been allowed to stay on Lesbos because they were about to give birth, he said. Many Iraqi refugees, desperate to reach a European country, try to slip into Greece from Turkey by boat. A Greek diplomat said Greece and Turkey, U.S. allies but traditional rivals, had reached a gentlemen's agreement in August under which Ankara agreed to take back Iraqi boat people who had clearly set out from Turkey or were intercepted at sea. "This is very positive news. It seems that the agreement is working," the diplomat said of the Lesbos incident.

Saudi national held on in Thailand heroin charges

BANGKOK (AFP) — A Saudi national was arrested Wednesday at Bangkok airport and charged with possessing and trafficking in heroin, anti-narcotics officials said. Suwaid M.M. Alajmi, 34, from Riyadh, was arrested as he sought to board a flight to Hong Kong. The officials said 6.3 kilograms of the drug were found hidden in his luggage. In Thailand, convicted drug traffickers face the death penalty, but foreigners are usually given commuted sentences and prison terms of 20 years to life. Around two-third of the 1,200 foreigners in Thai jails have been imprisoned for drug offences.

Court sentences eight to death in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria's special courts passed sentences on more than 40 Muslim fundamentalists Tuesday, including eight death penalties, judicial sources said. The eight fundamentalists sentenced to death were found guilty of murdering a police commissioner, his wife and two police officers in an attack in Algiers last October, the sources said, adding that five of the convicted were still on the run. The court, which was trying 38 people in connection with the attack, also handed down one life sentence, two 20-year sentences, eight 10-year sentences and 19 five-year terms.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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06:30 Riyadh (RJ)	Other Flights (Terminal



MORE COURTS NEEDED: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday visits the Higher Court of Justice and the office of the Prosecutor General. The judicial authorities need to increase the number of courts in the Kingdom in order to save citizens the time and inconvenience of travelling to the Palace of Justice in Amman for their cases, said Dr. Majali. New courts would require the appointment of more judges, and the government is willing to respond to such needs and to provide other requirements to help speed up settlement of various court cases, said the prime minister. Discussing courts' needs with senior judges and officials, in the presence of Minister of Justice Rafea Al Wazani, Dr. Majali urged closer cooperation between the judicial and executive branches of government, adding that the government was ready to support such cooperation. Several judges presented requests and discussed the development of administrative services in the courts. (Petra photo).

JIZEH FREE MEDICAL DAY: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Wednesday attends the start of a free medical day at Talibeih refugee camp in Jizeh near the Queen Alia International Airport. The event was organised by the Jordanian Society for the Development and Training of Women in Rural Regions. Free medical examinations for women and children were conducted and drugs were distributed by specialists of the society. According to Princess Alia, the society, which was established in 1990, has been active in programmes designed to help rural women obtain an education



and vocational training. The Princess, who is the society's honorary president, said the organisation has provided sewing machines for women to help them improve their family income. Princess Alia thanked the social organisations which have assisted the local society in carrying out its programmes (Petra photo)

Experts to improve rural development policies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will hold an expert group meeting on the assessment of policies and programmes of rural development in the ESCWA countries Oct. 11-14 at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman.

During the meeting, experts representing 13 ESCWA member countries will adopt proposals and recommendations regarding the improvement of rural development policies and programmes, develop a formula for coordination among regional organisations operating in Western Asia and improve the means of cooperation between them and the national institutions involved in rural development activities in the ESCWA region.

The meeting will review and assess national experiences in planning and implementation of rural development programmes and projects in ESCWA

countries.

The main emphasis of the working documents will be on rural development planning methodology and methods of policy formulation; the structure of rural development institutions; a follow-up of implementation of rural development projects and their evaluation.

Several regional and international institutions and organisations will take part in the ESCWA meeting, namely the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD); the Regional Centre for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East; the national institutions concerned with rural development in Jordan; the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO); the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD); the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Bank.

Consortium grants JEA JD 12m in expansion loan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has been granted a JD 12 million loan from a consortium of local banks for its expansion projects, according to a contract signed in Amman Wednesday.

The loan will be used to pay the JEA's dues, finance the installation of three transformer stations, JEA's operations and the purchase of spare parts and fuel, said a JEA official.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Walid Asfour signed the contract in his capacity as chairman of the JEA board.

The consortium which is led by the Arab Bank, includes the Housing Bank, the Social Security Corporation, the Jordan Bank for Finance and Investment, Citibank, the Jordan Arab Investment Bank, Al Itihad Bank and the Jordan Kuwait Bank.

Speaking on behalf of the consortium, Mifteh Akel of the Arab Bank said the loan, which is to be managed by the Arab Bank, was aimed at supporting JEA's expansion schemes designed to increase the level of the electric power to meet growing demand of the increasing population and the country's development projects.

The minister voiced JEA's appreciation to the Jordanian banks adding that the JEA was considering applying for another loan soon to finance the purchase of three gas-driven turbines to be installed before the end of this year.

The turbines are needed to generate electric power using gas produced at Al Rishah gas field.

JEA sources said the turbines would cost \$50 million. According to Mr. Asfour,



Walid Asfour

the JEA would seek to secure the required loans from local banks, adding that the JEA has been successful in financing its own projects.

The JD 12 million loan from the consortium is backed by a Jordanian government guarantee.

Muta University to build 6 women's dormitories

MUTA (Petra) — Muta University Wednesday announced that it is constructing six women's dormitories on campus at a cost of JD 4.177 million.

University Acting President Abdul Rahman Attiyat said the Industrial Development Bank, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Arab Potash company and private businessman Samir Shamma were providing JD 1.5 million in loans to help finance the project.

The balance of the cost will come from the university's budget, said Dr. Attiyat following the signing of the loan agreement.

The agreement provides for the construction of six three-storey buildings of 18,000 square metres in area.

Each building will have 45 rooms, complete with basic utilities, according to the agreement.

Work on the project is to start in two weeks and is expected to be completed by the middle of the 1994-5 academic year, according to Dr. Attiyat.

He said that to date, women students of Muta have been housed in 11 homes around the university, together accommodating 1,150 students. The new facilities he said, will accommodate at least 1,000 students.

In a statement following the signing of the agreement, Dr. Attiyat said Muta University plans to open a faculty of agriculture at the start of the 1994-5 academic year.

He said the new faculty is part of the university's planned expansion, which he added includes raising the number of undergraduates and also the teaching staff.

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Information ministry to set up election news press centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Information plans to set up a press centre linked to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation to guarantee the easy flow of election news so that journalists will have access to full and immediate reports, according to Information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar.

The minister was speaking at a meeting with Interior Minister Salameh Hammad and other officials at the interior ministry to review coordination concerning the election process.

Dr. Abu Nowar reviewed the ministry's preparations, noting that all information pertaining to the elections would be accessible to any citizen after it has reached the ministry's information services.

Mr. Hammad outlined election arrangements in Amman and the other governorates, the process of distributing voting cards, and the assignment of voting centres.

He said the Ministry of Interior has printed voting cards, installed ballot boxes and prepared the special seals to be used by the election committee.



Salameh Hammad

Interior ministry officials said 3,000 ballot boxes are available for the polls which will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

They added that the polls could remain open an extra two hours depending on the turnout of the voters.

The officials said one ballot box will be assigned for every 700 voters to avoid congestion at the voting centres.

Meanwhile, in Zarqa governorate it was announced Wednesday that 50 committees



Ma'an Abu Nowar

have been appointed to fill out the voting cards and 75 voting centres were set up, supervised by 75 committees.

According to Assistant Governor Thamer Fayed, the number of registered voters in the Zarqa governorate was 193,930.

In Jerash district, Wednesday's report said the number of voters was 40,723 and at least 16 candidates plan to contest the two seats in the district.

In Wadi Seer, it was reported that 72 voting centres will be opened on election day.

Agricultural development to consider environment

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture is careful to ensure that agricultural development would not take place at the expense of the environment, said Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal.

Addressing the opening session of a seminar at the Professional Association Complex on agriculture and the environment, the minister said that people have a prime responsibility to protect the earth's environment and therefore safeguarding it takes precedence over all other considerations.

Ghaleb Abu Arabi addressed the meeting stressing that Jordan was particularly concerned with the environment and the ministry has constantly been encouraging the planting of trees, protecting the soil from erosion and guiding farmers on proper methods of fertiliser and pesticides use.

Several working papers were presented and reviewed at the seminar's two sessions, focusing on the water use, pesticides and fertilisers, soil erosion, pollutants and means of providing protection to the environment.

Ministry Secretary General

238,000 sheep seized in smuggling attempts

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — The Badia Border Patrol seized more than 238,000 sheep in smuggling attempts into and out of Jordan since the beginning of this year, according to Customs Department statistics, adding more than JD 1 million to the treasury.

Sheep smuggling in Jordan has increased since last year, said Mohammad Jamal, director of the customs department. The badia border patrol noticed that sheep were being smuggled into Jordan for export to surrounding countries, Mr. Jamal said without elaborating.

Perpetrators seek to make profits by smuggling less costly sheep from one country to another, and selling them for higher prices, using Jordan as a passage, he maintained.

"Jordan's borders are just a path for smugglers who want to deliver sheep from one country to another without declaring the number or destination, so they can avoid paying duty and declaring their destination," he said.

Mr. Jamal told the Jordan Times that the original fine on each head of sheep smuggled through the country was JD 25 and the duty per head is JD 5. The customs department lowered the fine to JD 5 per head but smuggling has continued, he said.

"Even though the department has set a fair fee to deter people from smuggling, perpetrators continue to try to circumvent paying taxes on the sheep," he said.

Jordan collected more than JD 1,190,000, during the past 10 months, from fines on the seized herds, but figures on

the number of sheep smuggled into Jordan last year were unavailable, according to Mohammad Hiani of the Department of Statistics.

Mr. Hiani told the Jordan Times that annually, the Kingdom imports nearly 240,000 heads of sheep from Bulgaria, Romania and other European countries, through the Gulf of Aqaba. He added that it is seldom that local or imported sheep are smuggled from Jordan to other countries, but when they are, a JD 3 fee is required for each head to cover the fodder expenses while the sheep are held by the government authorities.

Mr. Jamal said that the Kingdom's economy is unaffected if sheep smugglers escape the authorities because the sheep were not intended for import into Jordan.

"Smuggling sheep does not effect our economy, instead, when smugglers are caught, they have to pay the fines."

But the Jordanian authorities confiscate 40 per cent of the sheep seized in any smuggling attempt. The customs department allows smugglers to resume their destinations after paying the JD 5, per head fine for the illicit transport, but they can only continue with 60 per cent of their flocks, Mr. Jamal explained.

"The reason we keep 40 per cent of the captured sheep is to preserve the animal wealth of Jordan," Mr. Jamal said.

He said the customs department, in cooperation with the badia patrol, monitors the borders daily in an effort to deter such smuggling.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Abdullah visits Water Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein Wednesday visited the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and was briefed on its services by Minister Bassam Kakish. Attending the meeting was Abdul Aziz Wishah, Jordan Valley Authority secretary general, and Water Authority Secretary General Qusai Eqtisat and other officials.

Meeting urges pre-school strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — Child education experts Wednesday called for adopting national strategy for children as well as establishing a specialised national committee to look into children's basic needs and concerns. The importance of developing a national strategy for pre-school children was repeated by experts and lecturers at the conference organised by the National Association for the Education of the Child (NAEC) in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). "Studies revealed that children who receive pre-school education at home or at nurseries perform better at school and university," said Tuma Haze, chief of internal relations of UNICEF in Jordan. He said the studies also showed that number of divorce cases were lower among couples who have received pre-school education.

Moroccan team to arrive for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A Moroccan delegation is due here Thursday to discuss economic relations with Jordan. The team, which is led by Hilal Al Rashidi, deputy director of the international commercial relations at the ministry of commerce in Rabat, will hold meetings with government officials, private businesspersons and exporters during the several day visit. A Moroccan-Jordanian trade and customs agreement is also expected to be signed.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Talib at the Balka's Art Gallery in Al Fuhais.
- ★ Art exhibition by artists Dr. Ala Bashir and Sa'di Abbas at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mahmoud Al-Ubaidi at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Al Mi'mar at the Orfali Art Gallery. Telephone 826932.
- ★ Photographic exhibition on nature and the township of Sakab by artist Ghassan 'Ayyasrah at the Student Affairs Department at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Exhibition of etchings by Mohammad Omar Khalil at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lwweidh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by artist Hussein

Daaseh at the Alia Art Gallery.

- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Eastern Dancing — Entertainment in Spare Time" by Sigrid Benemann at Goethe Institute.
- ★ The First International Festival of Fine Arts in Jordan entitled "Colour and Light in the Nabatean Civilisation" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in Jordan.

DRAMAS

- ★ Children's drama entitled "Aladdin's Lamp" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 1:00 a.m.
- ★ Folklore drama entitled "The Season" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

BOOK EXHIBITION

- ★ Comprehensive book and educational aids exhibition at the International Exhibition Hall - University Road.

FILM

- ★ Film entitled "The Body Snatcher" at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m.





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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

الصحف اليومية العربية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Encounter that was

THE MEETING in Cairo yesterday between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the company of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak came at a critical time for the PLO-Israeli autonomy agreement. The fact that the meeting took place in the office of the Egyptian president suggests that there are indeed many knots that need to be untied before the agreement on Palestinian self-government takes effect on October 13. The summit also implies that the problems that exist between the two sides have been compounded of late and may have indeed required the mediation or even the intervention of Egypt.

On the surface, the agenda for the Israeli prime minister and the Palestinian leader is already laden with very complex issues the resolution of which would require tough negotiations. After all, the Declaration of principles signed in Washington last month is only a framework for self-rule and obviously calls for additional talks and agreements. The priority is the projected transfer of authority to the Palestinians, starting in five principal areas comprising the establishment of a Palestinian police force, formation of joint Israeli-Palestinian liaison and economic cooperation committees, agreement on how to conduct elections for the envisaged Palestinian Council and the repatriation of Palestinian expellees and refugees. Yet, as formidable as these items could be for the two parties, there may have been other factors that necessitated the unexpected meeting between Rabin and Arafat in the Egyptian capital.

The recent Israeli crack down on Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, especially the hunting down of both Fateh and Hamas members, has angered the PLO to the point of embarrassment and undermining its authority in the occupied territories. As important and pressing as this concern may be, we doubt that that issue was in itself the main reason why the Cairo meeting was held. Something more important and urgent had to have been the driving force. The Jordanian and Syrian factors in the peace equation may have had some bearing on the Cairo meeting. Jordan has of late accelerated its moves and asserted itself more forcefully than before in the process. The open meeting between Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and the developments that ensued, may have opened new vista for even the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks. But the fact remains that the Palestinians and Israelis have some tough issues to tackle and difficult questions to answer before their agreement can be implemented in good time and orderly fashion. And that alone is a good enough reason for their leaders to meet again and hammer out solutions at the highest level. The Cairo meeting could not have been a waste of time under any circumstances.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDAN, AMONG the worst hit countries of the Middle East as a result of the conflicts in the region over the past four decades, has the right to demand compensation for its sacrifices and its peace efforts, said Al Dastour daily Wednesday. The Kingdom is therefore looking forward with hope that development schemes to be implemented in the region would also benefit the Jordanian people, said the daily. Economic development is an integral element of the peace process and Jordan is a vital factor for peace and the main gate to achieve a settlement acceptable to the future generations, added the daily. The paper noted that Jordan, in view of its proximity to the Palestinians and the involvement in the Palestine problem, had shouldered heavy burdens and provided shelter to waves of three migrations of Palestinians; therefore, it has the right to compensation and to be involved in an overall plan for the socio-economic development, the foreign debts weighing the country's national economy came about as a result of the heavy burden of the refugees and the infrastructure that was needed to pave the ground for their absorption over the past 40 years, added the paper. It was therefore very reasonable for Jordan to demand that its debts be reviewed and cancelled and that the heavy burden on Jordan be reduced in the framework of peace and stability for the whole area, added the paper. It said that Jordan's demands are justified and the world community should take them seriously if genuine and lasting peace is to be established in this important part of the world.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastour daily voiced full backing of the suicidal attack staged by the Palestinian resistance against the Israeli occupation forces near Ramallah. Hamadeh Faraaneh said that regardless of who carried out the attack, the resistance groups have all the right to evict the Israelis from their homeland and end the occupation of Palestine. At least such military action against the occupation forces can strengthen the Palestinian hands in their negotiations with the enemy and can gain the Palestinians more respect in the eyes of the world, added the writer. Resistance action against the occupiers is the only language that is understood by the aggressors and the only way to reply to the continued state of oppression against the defenceless population, continued Faraaneh. What is happening in Palestine, in Lebanon and in Somalia against the occupation of foreign powers is right and justified and would lead to liberation and strengthen the people's confidence in their ability to attain freedom, said the writer.

New mood affects arms control

By Farida Burtis

NEW YORK — For years the United Nations ran an Office of Disarmament Affairs that was largely decorative, but now its staff has trouble keeping up with all the initiatives put forward to make the world a safer place.

As well as looking favourably at plans like the START II treaty — between the former Soviet Union and the U.S. — to destroy weapons and limit their availability, the U.N. is grappling with a new way of thinking about security that involves close to total openness among nations bent on preserving peace.

"For the first time since the nuclear era began in 1945, a Comprehensive Test Ban (CTB) is within the realm of reality," noted Silvana da Silva, chief of the Arms Register, Data Collection and Analysis Branch, at the U.N. Office of Disarmament Affairs. The recent decisions by Russia, the U.S. and France to extend the moratorium on underground nuclear testing represent a turning point in international relations regarding arms control and international deterrence, she added. This decision is supported by China and the United Kingdom, the two other countries that are officially part of the so-called nuclear club.

Ms. da Silva explained that the impetus for extending the moratorium on underground testing of nuclear weapons came in June when President Bill Clinton decided to endorse the decision made earlier by the U.S. Congress. Then "France and Russia decided to go along with the extension," she said.

"Now the Ad Hoc Committee of the U.N. Conference on Disarmament in Geneva has the mandate to negotiate a Comprehensive Test Ban," explained Ms. da Silva. "Previously the Ad Hoc Committee met to discuss and exchange ideas, but not to negotiate."

"At the same time, the nuclear weapons states will continue to pursue negotiations among themselves," she said. "There will be two parallel tracks: A multilateral one at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, and another among the nuclear weapons states themselves."

Questioned about the effect of a Comprehensive Test Ban on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, da Silva said the ban "would have a big impact." Ever since the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty came into existence in 1970, "non-nuclear weapons states have felt that a Comprehensive Test Ban would be a major step towards curbing the proliferation of nuclear weapons," she added. At present, 154 U.N. member states have signed the non-proliferation treaty. Among countries that have not signed are India, Pakistan, Brazil, Argentina, Algeria and Israel. Although they have registered strong opposition to Israel's undeclared nuclear programme, several Arab states — including Egypt — have signed the treaty.

In 1995, after 25 years of existence the treaty will be reviewed and its extension will be discussed.

Meanwhile, the new mood of transparency has led Australia to work on a proposal to share with other nations secret data on missile launchings in Asia and the Middle East. The data which was used during the Gulf war, is gathered at a base in central Australia operated by the Australian army and the U.S. military. It receives information from an American spy satellite which monitors an area extending from the eastern Mediterranean to the western Pacific. The plan could become part of an early-warning system to forestall aggressors, experts say.

The year 1993 also marks the coming of age of the new U.N. Register of Conventional Arms, officially created in December 1991, but slow to materialise. It "promotes trust and partnership between states by helping to reduce dangerous misperceptions," says Ms. da Silva. Established by a resolution of the General Assembly, the register started compiling data this spring on seven categories of heavy weapons.

These include tanks, armoured combat vehicles, large calibre artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles and missile launchers. The register contains official information on arms sales and imports provided by govern-

ments and stored on a computer. Printouts are available to U.N. member states.

"The arms register is a very important instrument within the U.N. framework," Ms. da Silva said. "One of the most important measures in terms of building confidence among states are measures of transparency and openness."

"The purpose of the register is to establish some measure of transparency in military affairs," explained Ms. da Silva. "This applies particularly to neighbouring countries in regions of potential conflict... If all countries in a region are informing the U.N. of what arms transactions have taken place — in these seven categories — then there is a certain level of openness and that in itself reduces tension."

Initially most reports for the register were submitted by western arms-exporting nations, and few were provided by the major southern arms-importing countries such as India and Pakistan. According to the latest reports, Ms. da Silva said, a total of 74 countries have submitted reports.

A representative of the Indian mission to the U.N. Sujan R. Chinyo, commented that "like any responsible country, India submitted a report to the arms register," but he declined to say whether it would lead to a reduction of tension with neighbouring Pakistan, which also submitted information.

China, against whom the U.S. recently imposed economic sanctions for allegedly selling long-range missile technology to Pakistan, has provided to the U.N. a report on exports as well as imports of weapons. Countries of the former Soviet Union that have submitted reports include Russia, Belarus, Georgia and Kazakhstan.

Brazil and Argentina have both submitted reports. North Korea has not replied, although South Korea has submitted a report. Libya and Tunisia submitted reports, but they indicated they had no imports or exports.

Among the industrialised countries that have provided information are the U.S., the United Kingdom, France, Japan, Canada, Belgium, Ita-

ly, the Netherlands and Sweden. Switzerland, which has an observer mission to the U.N. but is not a member, submitted a report on its arms sales.

Ms. da Silva indicated that in 1994 a group of experts would assess whether to include in the register other categories of weapons, such as weapons of mass destruction, or "lighter weapons which some countries believe are even more destabilising in their regions" than the seven categories listed in the register. She added that at that time there would also be a review on expanding the register to include national military holdings and procurement of weapons.

At present — and on a voluntary basis — countries may submit such data as background information. Countries that have provided such information to the U.N. include the U.S., Austria, Brazil, the Netherlands, France and Belgium.

When asked about the possibility that countries could withhold information, Ms. da Silva noted: "We have been able to reflect in this register some 95 per cent of weapons exports in the world — in these seven categories — which is quite a significant number. Even though not all major importers have reported, we can still draw from the replies of the exporters which countries have imported the weapons."

As for covert and black market transfers of weapons, that would be somewhat difficult for the register to cover because submissions are voluntary, she said, adding that the issue had been raised in the General Assembly, especially by Colombia, Venezuela and Peru. "Their concerns emanated from the drug trafficking business, which also traffics in weapons," Ms. da Silva explained. "It was their wish that the register should cover such transfers."

At present, representatives of U.N. member countries must visit the offices of the Arms Register to obtain information. But ultimately member states are expected to have access to the computerised data, either on-line or by disk transfer — World-News-Link.

What next after hardliners' surrender?

By Bertrand de Saissset

Agence France Presse

MOSCOW — Monday's unprecedented military assault in Moscow may have forced the surrender of political hardliners holed up in parliament, but it has left serious questions about where President Boris Yeltsin goes from here.

While his crackdown on political opponents who had systematically thwarted his market-oriented reforms revived the confidence of some Russian businessmen and foreign investors, Mr. Yeltsin must now prove he is capable of pursuing those reforms democratically.

Without a legislative counterweight — at least until early legislative elections scheduled to be held in December — Mr. Yeltsin on paper at least holds tremendous power.

As the battle with his conservative opponents turned violent, Mr. Yeltsin imposed emergency security measures which included a curfew, random identity checks, restrictions on movements in and out of Moscow and the suspension of opposition newspapers.

The Kremlin said the measures were aimed at boosting public safety and "liquidating remaining formations of armed bandits" who took part in the "attempted coup d'etat" Sunday and Monday.

But Mr. Yeltsin's margin for manoeuvre will depend on his ability to rally support from the leaders of Russia's 88 "subjects" — its component republics, regions and territories.

Many of these leaders openly expressed their support for the politically conservative parliament or took a more cautious neutral approach in the last two weeks building up to the crisis.

The regional leaders have gotten used to a large degree of autonomy and it is viewed as unlikely that they would now accept a strong central authority unless they were closely linked to the decision-making. This was Mr. Yeltsin's intent ahead.

in creating the federation council, the future upper house in the new parliament, while bringing together the legislative and executive leaders of Russia's 88 component areas.

But council meetings were postponed twice amid the current crisis — once Saturday and again on Tuesday just moments after an announcement that the meeting would be held.

Mr. Yeltsin's press service set no new date, stating only that "the leadership of the country concluded that the situation must first be examined."

Another central question in this week's events: Did Mr. Yeltsin offer something in exchange for support from the army and security forces which backed his fight against arch-rivals Alexander Rutskoi and Ruslan Khasbulatov, now both behind bars.

Though firm action resolved the crisis over parliament, civil liberties could be seriously undermined if the state of emergency and curfew in Moscow remain in force for a long period to counter actions by opposition snipers or other violent challenges to the government.

The suspension of opposition newspapers is also risky, in that it deprives the neo-communist and ultra-nationalist opposition of a legal means of expression in the run-up to the forthcoming legislative elections.

The country remains further handicapped by a Soviet-era constitution which is ill-adapted to the numerous changes that have taken place since the breakup of the Soviet Union.

The existence of a modern, well-oiled constitutional system appears more than ever necessary if the government is to be able to resolve the political crises which probably lie ahead.

Peace option had to prevail

(Continued from page 1)

1967 war would be so slow that it could not possibly change the demographic balance in Jordan. Why then link progress of democracy to unknowns?

Other observers cited American and European pressure on the King not to hamper his country's democratisation process as an obviously important reason for the "reversal" of the decision.

And there was yet another group, mainly made up of liberal intellectuals and writers, who believe that the Monarch had no real interest in considering the postponement in the first place and that the arguments presented in its favour, legitimate as they may seem, could be easily outweighed by the counterarguments on every count. The King opened the door for debate simply to appease the right, to hear all the arguments or to prove the point that Jordan's internal situation was largely affected by and intertwined with what happened on the Palestinian front, a well-informed analyst said. "But there was no question in his mind that what the new situation required, and Jordan's higher interest dictated, was not only to continue with the democratisation but also to join the peace drive in full force."

Being aware that the Islamists and other oppo-

nents of the peace process were in fact losing ground, both in Jordan and the occupied territories, just as the right was doing in Israel, the King found it only logical to follow up the decision to hold the elections on time with an immediate overture to the U.S. and Israel. Jordan cannot afford to be left behind. Besides, the economic factor has to figure highly in his thinking from now on.

This led to the King's decision to send His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to Washington to meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in the presence of President Clinton Oct. 1, and to attend the donors' conference that was held on the same day to raise funds for Palestinian self-government.

The White House meeting, and the formation of a joint Jordanian-American-Israeli working group, came as a surprise to most Jordanians, who appear to be still largely confused, even subdued, by the fast developments of the past six weeks.

The confusion may have not been helped by the dearth of information on the purpose and functions of the new committee. Officials would only say that the group would provide a "window for Jordan on development efforts for the occupied territories."

But the words of the American president used following the meeting were

bound to serve as a clue to what Jordan should expect from supporting fully the peace drive.

"The purpose of the donor's conference today was to give life and meaning and reality to the agreement we saw between Israel and the PLO. There will have to be other investments, other commitments that will help to deal with the problems of Jordan, including the enormous problem Jordan has of accumulated debt," President Clinton said. "There needs to be some debt relief for Jordan, and the United States will support that. And there are a whole lot of other things that we need to be doing on that."

Mr. Clinton's comments, which came in reply to a question, were the first formal U.S. response in two months of Jordanian efforts to raise the issue of the Kingdom's foreign debt with Washington.

For a small, cash-strapped country whose foreign debt amounts to about \$7 billion, \$1 billion of which is owed to the U.S., President Clinton's words could only be reassuring.

Any influx of economic support cannot be much, in comparison with the \$100 billion that was spent on the Gulf war. But a peace dividend small as it is, can only help in winning floating votes. Besides peace has always been a strategic goal as far Jordan is concerned.

Crown Prince meets Ghali

(Continued from page 1)

stereotypes which demonise one fifth of the world's population must ultimately be self-defeating," he said.

Prince Hassan said the signing last month of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) declaration of principles represented a "significant step towards the achievement of a negotiated settlement in our troubled region."

He also hoped a common agenda worked out by Jordan and Israel would signify the start of serious and substantive negotiations on its various elements.

Prince Hassan, who met Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the White House in Washington on Friday, cited in particular the issues of regional security, water and refugees, as well as the status of Jerusalem.

"The legitimate rights which the three great monotheistic faiths share in the Holy City must be guaranteed, and claims of political and administrative sovereignty accommodated to the satisfaction of all," he said.

Referring to the Israel-PLO agreement, he said, it would have major implications for Jordan's legitimate interests.

"At a time when new entities are being formed, an orderly transfer of power and authority is vital," Prince Hassan said.

"Only this can safeguard the rights of existing states and those of individuals. There are questions to address about

state property, archives, debts, treaties, nationality, salaries, pensions."

Calling the refugee question of paramount importance, he said Jordan had shouldered an enormous burden in receiving waves of "involuntary migrants."

"It should not, and must not, be forgotten that the individuals affected have under international law a right of return and compensation, and their host countries are likewise entitled to compensation."

"Jordan seeks an equitable, sustainable international approach to the treatment of our demographic burden, for it would be unconscionable to penalise host countries for their humanitarian policies."

On the crucial issue of water, he said the agenda struck a delicate balance between the need for optimal utilisation of scarce resources and the equally imperative need to define the rights and duties of riparian states.

"When the euphoria has subsided, these serious and complex questions will remain... for the Middle East cannot be reduced to a single issue it more closely resembles a tapestry woven of numerous intertwining threads," Prince Hassan said.

"The Middle East cannot be reduced to a single issue," he said, urging a close look at the "special impact of continued sanctions upon the most vulnerable segments of Iraqi society, in particular the children."

Somalia options

(Continued from page 1)

The Somali militiamen reported to be saying they will put their hostages "on trial, mirroring the way the United Nations says it will treat detained aides of Gen. Aidede."

Isse Mohammed Syad, a foreign affairs representative of Gen. Aidede's Somali National Alliance (SNA), said the pilot was in the hands of SNA sympathisers and that the idea of the swap was "everybody's feeling."

A Somali journalist issued a tract Wednesday from the fundamentalist Somali Islamic Salvation Movement (SISM) which said the group was holding captive "several American men, one of them a pilot."

"They're talking about four or five prisoners," the journalist said.

The SISM, a fundamentalist group supporting the SNA, said it had fought Somalia alongside the people. It threatened to kill its captives if Somali prisoners held by U.N. forces were not released.

Gen. Aidede meanwhile called on his supporters to step up their fight against U.N. peacekeepers.

The Italian national news agency ANSA said Gen. Aidede broadcast on Tuesday from a clandestine radio, the second night running, appealing for Somalis to "double and triple" their effort against the U.N. troops.

ANSA said Gen. Aidede made no reference to U.S. servicemen captured by his militia.

Yeltsin confirms December elections

(Continued from page 1)

He said the court "had for some time violated the important principle" of remaining objective and independent from the political struggle in Moscow and also bore "no small responsibility" for the events of recent days.

Earlier Wednesday soldiers disarmed and arrested several groups of gunmen as violent resistance to Mr. Yeltsin collapsed and the government took full control of the capital.

Isolated attacks by snipers were reported overnight, but there were no casualties.

Mr. Yeltsin's government continued to crack down on the opposition. Several main-

stream Moscow newspapers appeared Wednesday with blank spots on their pages where articles had been censored and removed. But the government later Wednesday ended censorship, saying it was a temporary emergency step.

Government troops and tanks stormed the parliament building Monday and crushed armed resistance by some 1,500 lawmakers and their supporters. Hardliners were holed up in the building for almost two weeks after refusing Mr. Yeltsin's order to disband and hold new elections.

Fighting began after hardliners rioted Sunday in central Moscow. The battles left more than 100 dead and hundreds more wounded.

Mr. Yeltsin had been locked in a power struggle with an informal alliance of communists, fascists and ultra-nationalists opposed the scale and pace of his political and economic reforms. Both sides had tried to oust each other during an 18-month power struggle that crippled the government.

Life was returning to normal in Moscow Wednesday with heavy commuter traffic headed to the city centre. Tanks were pulled back from around the blackened parliament building and fewer troops were seen on the streets.

Officials were considering what charges would be filed against the parliament leaders, former Vice-President Alexan-

der Rutskoi and Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov. The two men and other top leaders were being held in high-security prisons.

Mr. Yeltsin continued to tighten his grip on the government.

The chairman of the constitutional court, who had sided with Mr. Yeltsin's foes in the fight over dissolving parliament, resigned Wednesday. Under Valery Zorkin's leadership, the court initially took an independent line after the Soviet collapse, but this year Mr. Zorkin increasingly aligned with parliament leaders.

On Monday, Mr. Yeltsin dismissed Russia's chief Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov.

Independence for all

(Continued from page 1)

peace accord "in a better way than it was written."

He did not elaborate, but made it clear that Israel still regarded the autonomy deal as a first step towards a wider political settlement.

"The land is small, the conflict is big and the mix of populations makes it extremely hard to draw a map," the Israeli foreign minister said.

"Instead of a map, we have agreed to employ a calendar, a timetable to move from an impossible situation to a situation which will enable us to reach a full agreement and to have an acceptable map for the two parts," he said.

Returning to the need for

economic development underpin peace, Mr. Peres said Israel wanted a better Middle East, based on four basic assumptions:

— Getting rid of "negative expenses" such as oversized armies, the arms race and dictatorships in the region, especially in countries which might have nuclear arms.

— Sharing water resources and technology to fight desertification.

— Development of tourism to mop up unemployment and promote cross-cultural links and consolidate peace.

— Construction of a transport and communications infrastructure to improve links between the countries of the region.

July, 1994

Palestinian Embroidery — a symbol of unique national identity

Palestinian Embroidery: Traditional "fallahi" Cross-Stitch
By Widad Kavar and Tania Tamari Nasir
Published by State Museum of Ethnography, Munich

AMMAN — An elegant, dark hardcover book with an intricate, coloured cross-stitch pattern is enough of a recommendation and an eye-catcher to anybody interested in ethnic embroidery. The title *Palestinian Embroidery* puts things into perspective and is self-explanatory. The book, a collective endeavour of a group of dedicated Palestinian women, sets out to document cross-stitch embroidery of central and southern Palestine. The regions covered are Jaffa, Ramallah, Hebron, Gaza and Beer-sheba-Sinai.

The fallahi embroidery, as the book also calls it, is a craft of the village women who hand over, from one generation to another, this symbol of local and national identity. It takes a knowing eye to distinguish the patterns as

belonging to one region or another and the book does just that — it "presents patterns in context as arranged in units of embroidery, designates where the units are positioned on the costume itself" and tries to preserve as pure as possible the zonal characteristics of each pattern.

The concern to do that arose, as acknowledged in the Preface of the book, from the fact that "the authentic patterns, the legacy of their ancestors, were being mixed with acquired European patterns, and the young generation of embroiderers was losing touch with its own national patterns and designs. At the same time, the traditional patterns were being assumed by other ethnic groups as their own and this assumption posed a threat to the unique Palestinian identity."

Richly illustrated, the book is thoroughly researched in museums worldwide or in private collections. Photographs were taken at the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum in Cologne, from the Matson collections or those of Munir Nasr, Myrtle Winters Chaumery, Jean Mohr, Kamel Kavar, UNRWA, Osman Akuz and Bourkan Kauggi.

The patterns were painstakingly copied by Palestinian refugee women in Amman from old costumes, in preparation for publication.

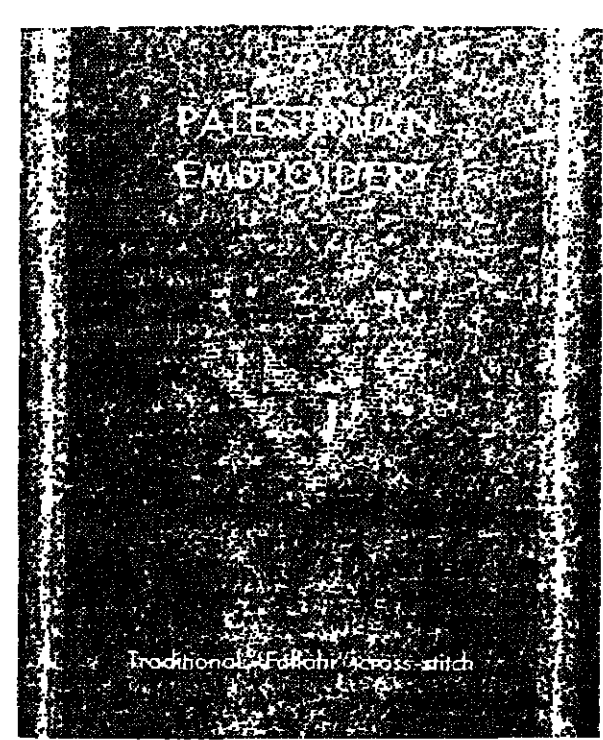
Starting with practical tips about the pattern and colours characteristic to each region, the book, besides its value of document, provides a source of information and inspiration for "those who enjoy beautiful embroidery patterns and the craft of needlework" and acquaints "embroiderers with an aesthetic expression of the rich heritage seen in the traditional Palestinian embroidery patterns."

Perhaps less comprehensive than other books on the same subject (see *Palestinian Costume* by Shelag Weir, published by British Museum Publications, for example), from the start the book sets its goal — that of presenting some regions of Palestine, allowing for later publications on others.

One of its great merits is the thorough documentation of the geographic, social, symbolic aspects of the regions tackled and the clear, detailed presentation of the patterns of different parts of the dress.

Mentioning its highly decorative value, the book talks about the "progression of the Palestinian embroidery," about the centres where it is practised and explains certain use of colour.

Asia Halaby, who started the Arab Refugee Handicrafts Centre in Jerusalem and is well-known for her innovative usage of colour and motif combinations, explains her choice of greys and beiges, contrary to the bold striking colours usual in Palestinian embroidery, by saying: "Look at our Jerusalem hills, they are not rocky and barren, especially in winter? The shades of beige, grey and brown



are a reflection of our geography and the pinks, blues and yellows are the colours of the anemone, cyclamen, lupin and buttercup adorning our land in spring.

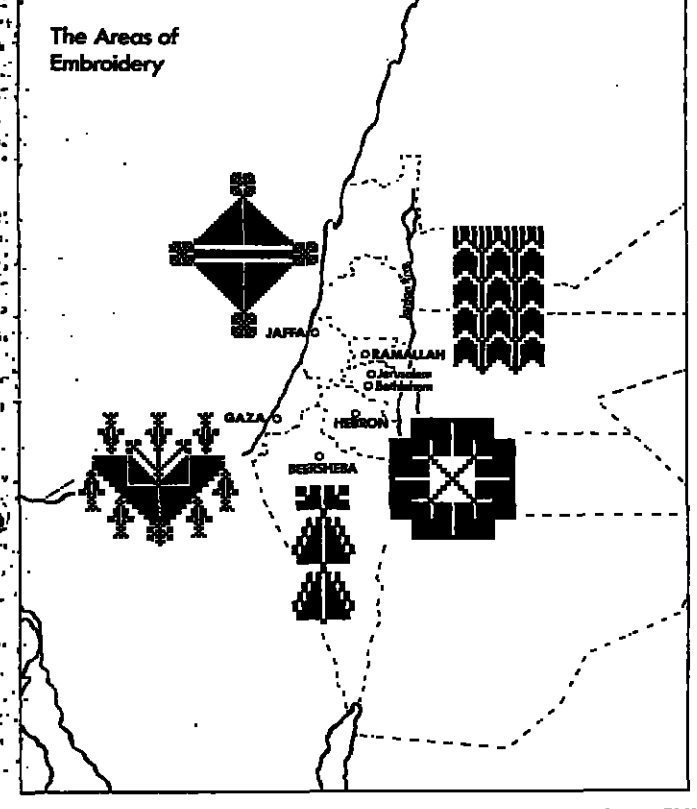
What better explanation for source of inspiration? But this is provided by almost everything around the fallaha woman who over centuries has proved her craft, enriched it and took care to pass it on to the next generation.

Ending with practical hints regarding the choice of fabric and thread, copying a design and embroidery techniques, the book proves to be an invaluable companion to any cross-stitch lover and fashion-aware person.

It was compiled by Widad Kamel Kavar and Tania Tamari Nasir, in cooperation with Iman Assali Dajanni, Hala Tomeh Ibrahim and Farideh Saleh Mayer and published by the State Museum of Ethnography in Munich.

The funds from the sale of the book "will go towards the preservation and promotion of the Palestinian cultural heritage." And it should be mentioned that it is dedicated "to the Palestinian woman who, with innovation and creativity, nurtured this fine folk art to what it is now, a symbol of her cultural heritage and unique national identity."

Ica Wahbeh



Jordanians prefer to read about the supernatural

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Books dealing with the supernatural, magic and para psychology are among the best selling books in the shops of downtown Amman, followed by Islamic books and publications on the 1991 Gulf War, according to shopowners.

Romantic novels are mostly preferred by women, they say.

Among the bestsellers in the supernatural category are titles such as *The Torment Of The Graves*, *The Prophecies Of Nostradamus* and *A Conversation With A Ghost*.

"The strange thing is that

readers of different educational levels and of different ages prefer this kind of book to others," said Fathi Al Awad, owner of Zahran and Al Hussein bookshops.

"In addition to the exciting idea of books dealing with metaphysics and supernatural phenomena such as the sixth sense and prediction, it seems that the low prices, less than JD 2, are what encourage people to purchase such books," said Imad Mustafa, a book dealer and owner of a bookshop in the centre of Amman.

"Books about issues such as life after death or resurrection are attractive to readers. It is probably a way

to escape the sufferings of daily life," he added.

Surveying seven bookshops in Amman, the Jordan Times found that books on Islam rank second on the list. The books of Sayyed Qutub, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Egypt, and Nasser Hamed Abu Zeid, also an Egyptian and professor of Arabic language and literature at Cairo University, who is currently standing trial accused of infidelity for his book *Critique Of Religious Discourse* — are the best selling authors in this category.

"The leftists are more concerned with books like Nasser Abu Zeid's," said

Mr. Mustafa. "It is obvious that religious tendency is what marks this stage. Traditional Islamic books such as *The Interpretation Of The Holy Koran* and *The Sunna Of Prophet Mohammad* are what interest most people," he added.

Mr. Awad remarked that despite the high prices of such books, between JD 2 and JD 25, people continue to purchase Islamic books. "They make essential references for every Muslim," he explained.

Books on the Gulf War, which were at the top of the bestsellers a year ago, are still doing well, say shopowners. The top seller was *The*

Gulf War by Mohammad Hassanein Heikal, a renowned Egyptian journalist. It sold about 15,000 copies in Jordan, according to Mr. Mustafa.

"People were trying to understand what had happened," said Abu Ali, owner of a popular bookshop near the Arab Bank in downtown Amman.

After reading the memoirs of Norman Schwarzkopf, the American commander of forces that liberated Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation in 1991 "people were shocked by the hidden facts about the war," Mr. Awad said.

According to the dealers, women prefer romance

novels and poetry. For example, the *Abeer Series Of Novels*, the Arabic translation of modern American and English romances, are widespread and can be found at any bookshop in Amman. Poems of Nizar Qabbani, a Lebanese modern poet who tackles women's issues, are also of great interest to women, according to bookshop sales records.

The latest publication of Jean Sasson, entitled *Princess*, and recently translated into Arabic, talks about the secret life of a woman under the veil. "It is expected to be the bestseller of the year," Mr. Mustafa claimed.

Publishers dream of making fortune with Du Maurier sequel

By Robert Woodward
Reuter

LONDON — The sequel to Rebecca, one of the best-loved British novels of the 20th century, is being prepared for publication in great secrecy and with a fortune riding on its success.

Mrs. De Winter, written by novelist Susan Hill, has been translated into 19 languages and will be published in more than 20 countries — including China and North Korea — on Oct. 4. "I can think of no other book in the world to which I would have been remotely tempted to write a sequel but Rebecca," said Hill, who was paid £650,000 (\$1 million) for her book.

Rebecca, written shortly before World War II, is the story of a naive young woman's marriage to an older man haunted by the memories of his first wife. It was an immediate best-seller and made writer Daphne Du Maurier's reputation. Hollywood's version of Rebecca, starring Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine as the heroine whose first name is never divulged,

mirrored the book's success.

It won an Oscar in 1940 and the opening line of the film — and the book — "Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again" became almost as famous as Rhett Butler's "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn" in *Gone With The Wind*.

Du Maurier's executors hope to avoid the fate that befell the sequel to *Gone With The Wind*, called *Scarlett*, which critics universally panned. The novel, first published in 1989, died in 1989 aged 81. Executives will spend about £150,000 (\$230,000) promoting Mrs. De Winter. The book will be serialised in a national newspaper and read on radio by actress Harriet Walter.

Hill says she took five months to write Mrs. De Winter, but few details have been divulged about the book. What little is known is that the heroine will remain anonymous, the book will be told in the first person and the setting has been moved from Cornwall, the far south-west of England where Du Maurier lived, north to Gloucestershire. Publishers Sinclair

Stephenson are going to great lengths to keep a lid on the book's contents. Journalists wishing to review the book will be allowed to see only the first chapter before Oct. 4 and have to sign a letter of confidentiality.

Dire warnings about the consequences of leaking the contents are contained in the document.

A short extract issued by the publishers shows Hill, whose Victorian spinechiller *The Woman In Black* has been terrifying audiences at a West End theatre since 1988, may have decided to try to repeat Du Maurier's atmospheric writing.

"I bent down. Touched the cool, delicate, creamy, infinitely beautiful petals, the faintly ribbed, heavy leaves, and a sweet scent came into my nostrils from the flowers, intoxicating and yet faintly alarming, seductive, dangerous," reads one sentence.

Rebecca ends with the couple returning to Manderley which has been apparently set on fire by housekeeper Mrs. Danvers, the book's wicked witch in

contrast to the heroine's Cinderella.

For most of the original, the heroine believes her husband still loves Rebecca but in fact he killed her because of her infidelity and sank her body in a boat. It is found by divers after his second marriage but he escapes arrest.

Critics have had a field day guessing what the future may hold. Some Du Maurier fans wonder if a sequel can work as the original is dominated by cruel Mrs. Danvers, the dead Rebecca and Manderley, leaving the rather vacuous De Winters in the shade.

Will the heroine have "grown up" from the timid, gauche wallflower of the first novel? Will she still be reading the cricket scores to her husband to keep him happy?

One critic wants her to become a raging feminist, another a lesbian — a biography of Du Maurier suggested she had lesbian tendencies. Most are agreed that the husband, Maxim, would have to change if the marriage was going to succeed.

In Rebecca, he is por-



Dame Daphne Du Maurier

trayed as an upper-class snob addicted to cricket and Manderley, his family home.

What hope is there in the non-sexist 1990s for a man who proposed to his wife with the immortal words "I'm asking you to marry me, you little fool," they ask. Novelist Maeve Binchy said the sequel should begin "Last night I dreamed I went to see my solicitor and began the whole business of getting shot of Max."

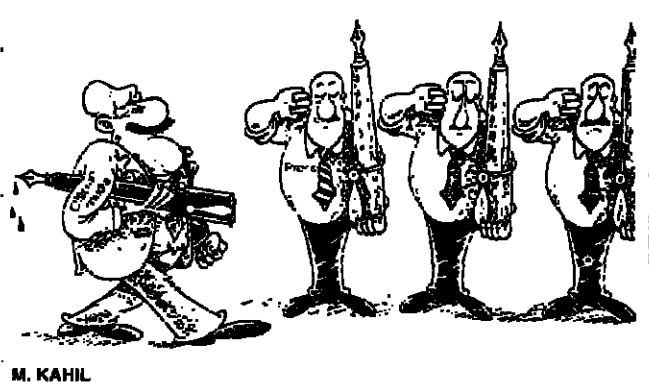
One intriguing question is whether Mrs. Danvers will return. In the book she

walks out of Manderley shortly before the fire. In the film she dies in the blaze.

One thing is certain — Hill does not want her novel turned into a Hollywood blockbuster. Two other Du Maurier stories, *The Birds* and *Don't Look Now*, were also made into successful films.

"I will always say no. They cannot persuade me," she said at the weekend. "I hated the film. Laurence Olivier had no more idea about Maxim De Winter than a fly in the air."

Diary



M. KAHL

ON THE ROAD AGAIN: Khalid Mahaddeen, an advisor to the Prime Ministry, has been officially informed that the Cabinet has decided to reject his application to continue writing in local newspapers. The decision, which was taken on Sept. 18, was not given to him in writing until Wednesday Oct. 6 for fear that he would seek to publish it. Mahaddeen, who served as press advisor to His Majesty King Hussein and as head of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, has been a columnist and regular writer in *Al Ra'i* for many years and continued writing throughout his tenure at the Royal Court and Petra. Of course, Mahaddeen, who is well known for his ability to manoeuvre among all prime ministers, former and present, hopes to emerge as a national hero of democracy with his latest confrontation with the government of Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali. "The government, which saw fit to appoint me as its advisor, does not trust my thoughts and politics enough to allow me to continue writing them," Mahaddeen told the *Diary*. He also questioned why the Cabinet, which voted unanimously in favour of the ban, only studied his application and ignored others submitted by "official" writers. Knowing Mahaddeen, he will persist in his quest for an answer. And being the sort of man who does not give up, the government perhaps should come clean about what the deal really is.

AHLAN, GOOD OLD DAYS: While the Mahaddeen saga goes on, the Department of Press and Publications has found it fit to ban the entry into the Jordanian market of 14 different international newspapers on a single day last week. Apart from the obvious economic ramifications of this move — many news stands obviously had less products for sale — the move could not have been void of political motives, or at least bureaucratic bungling. The newspapers were banned the day after the decision was taken to hold the elections on time despite all reports that they were to be delayed. Most Amman-based correspondents believed and possibly wrote that the government felt role-less in the whole affair especially since it was ready to announce the delay when the tables were turned against it. The journalists might have speculated on the possibilities that led to the sudden change in strategy. Mohammad Amin, the newly-appointed head of the Press and Publications, which controls the flow of foreign publications in the country, was decidedly reticent when asked what happened. He would only say that the newspapers in question "contradicted the Press and Publications Law." Other than that he had nothing to add. But the situation being as it is — see-sawing between freedom of speech or lack of it, the right of the public to know or no right — others had plenty to say. Our Ministry of Information "should have sent copies of our Press and Publications Law to all those international newspapers to guide their writing about Jordan," a commentator said. "It seems that no one told a publication like the *Guardian* weekly, which was one of the publications on that day or previously, that there is a list of about ten items that they should not touch. If it wanted to sell in Jordan, that is."

ARE YOU BEING SERVED?: In good humour but nevertheless noteworthy, a well-known journalist-photographer faced a case of misunderstanding this week. The sad encounter may have typified how officials regard people working in the local media. At a private dinner which included several journalists and officials, the photographer wanted to help the host in ensuring that his guests were properly served. Throughout the evening, one official seated next to the table on which the glasses, water and soft drinks were placed kept "summoning me with his finger from the other end of the hall and then asking me to get him a glass of water," the photographer later recounted. "He obviously thought I was the waiter that was brought along with Jabri (restaurant) food." As the evening progressed the official continued asking for "service" and the by now photographer-cum-waiter kept providing it. At the end of the evening, the host and his faithful friend, the photographer, stood at the door to bid farewell to the guests. A minister who was attending the same evening shook the hand of the host and then the photographer, who, when looking at his hand afterwards, found a JD 20 bill. So much for journalists being helpful to officials, the shocked photographer said.

Nermeen Murad

In the picture

By Jean-Claude Elias

Even if you are not a designer or an artist by trade, chances are that you have at least once, even if it was only for fun, tried one of the many drawings or graphics programmes available for the IBM compatible personal computer (PC).

Such programmes can be classified in two main categories: Those primarily intended for business charts and those designed for drawing in general. The border line however, between both classes is not ruler straight for a business charting software will also allow some free-hand drawing just like general purpose drawing programmes give the possibility to create bar, pie or other charts made famous by "stock exchange" TV reports.

A third, special category of computer graphics must be mentioned — the CAD (Computer Aided Design), used for technical drawing and sketching. CAD is in a class of its own, reserved to trained technicians or engineers and consequently won't be taken into consideration in this review.

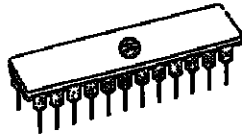
Discussing in detail the features and the operating procedures of PC graphics software is not the object of this column. My personal experience with computer graphics has shown me that a drawing, of any type, done using a PC, is rarely an end in itself. It is often integrated in another text, document, file or spread-sheet.

Museums and art galleries still haven't made a place for computer generated paintings, but such images are extremely useful when it comes to illustrate a piece of work done with a word processor or a Desk Top Publisher, a software used to design publications, books or newsletters.

Taking an image designed with Harvard Graphics programme for example, in order to insert it in a text created with MS-Word is a very common operation. Yet it is not as straightforward as one would expect it to be. The operation is called export-import (and not the contrary).

First, the user has to export the drawing from Harvard Graphics. In plain English, this means that it is to be saved on the hard disk in a special format, assume PCX for now, that the receiving software, MS-Word in this case, can "understand" and read. Then, the user would go to MS-Word and import the said drawing, specifying that a PCX-format image is being imported. Once visualised on the screen, one can place it anywhere in the text, using the mouse or the keyboard's cursor arrows.

chip talk



Apparently very simple, the operation can turn into a nightmare if anything goes wrong. Murphy's law can do wonders here.

In addition to ensuring that the chosen format, like PCX, can be used by both the sending (exporting) and the receiving (importing) programmes, there are several points the user has to weigh before starting the procedure.

Available image formats give different resolutions or quality. The PCX, TIFF, CGM, BMP and the Windows Metafile are among the main ones. The disk space they would occupy can also vary tremendously. A PCX work will only take one fifth of the disk space, and consequently the memory size, that a TIFF version of the same work would. The latter however offers a higher display and printout quality.

Usually, if the imported graphic is not re-edited, that is to say not modified and kept exactly identical to the original, its aspect will remain the same. However, if the user attempts to manipulate it by changing any of its attributes, colour, size or proportions, unexpected, certainly unwanted problems may occur, and the final work will have little to do with the original. Shape distortion and random colours substitution are the most common alterations that occur in such cases.

Some formats like TIFF can withstand manipulation better than others. Generally speaking, "vector graphics" give not only a better image quality, but they also allow more editing and transformation than the "bit map graphics".

Serious planning requires the operator to carefully choose the format he or she wishes to use, based on the quality wanted and the available disk space and memory size. Afterwards, it remains a question of trial and error. The field is still very experimental.

Once again, the obvious question is about compatibility: Why didn't software developers agree on one common format? The answer is another question: Why aren't all personal computers fully compatible?

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Oct. 7

8:30 Coach

Why So Happy Hayden

Coach Hayden is trying to persuade the great football star Roberts in joining Minnesota University so he can help them win a few games.

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

Change Of Plans

Dickey's plans for a delayed vacation are changed because he is asked to watch for a notorious criminal.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — North Shore

Starring: Matt Adler

Rick Ken is a young man who has a dream in life to become a professional surfer. He travels to Hawaii and finds job in a factory that manufactures surfing boards.

Friday, Oct. 8

8:30 Quantum Leap

Leap Of Faith

The father does not believe the story of how little Tony died.

9:10 Faces And Places

10:00 News In English

10:20 The House Of Cards

Francis Urquhart will show us in this exciting drama how he became prime minister through the press, T.V. and by fabricating files and scandals against his rivals in the British House of Commons.

11:10 Mind Your Language

Saturday, Oct. 9

8:30 The Fanelli Boys

Theresa Fanelli is angry at her son Roni, because he is in love with a woman as old as he and she does all she can to separate them.



Head Of The Class Wednesday at 8:30

9:00 Saturday Variety Show

9:30 Perspective

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Loyalties

Starring: Kenneth Welch and Susan Woodridge

Doctor David's wife follows him to where he works, in a small village. She lives with him, but then she feels so ignored by him that a local lady who works for her in the house tries to help her.

Sunday, Oct. 10

8:30 Step By Step

Everybody is getting ready for the school dancing party.

9:10 Thirtysomething

Going Limp

Elliot is asked to direct a TV campaign. He is rather horrified because of his lack of experience, but he does a good job in the end.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Documentary — Ways Of Making You Think

A documentary that talks about how in the United States the media plays a major role in the elections campaigns.

11:10 The Golden Girls

Rose and Blanche try to arrange a blind date for Dorothy.

Monday, Oct. 11

8:30 Delta

Delta Bishop, a waitress in a restaurant called Green Lantern, loves music and singing and she dreams of becoming a very famous singer.

9:10 The House Of Eliott

Beatrice excels in her work at Jack's studio, and through Jack she and Evangeline are introduced to the prominent social circles in town.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Chancer

Tuesday, Oct. 12

8:30 People Next Door

It is a very hard day for Walter. His boss yells at him because he is late in sending his drawings to the magazine.

9:10 The Outsider

Wound For Wound

The news that Fiona Neave is Miss Banner's illegitimate daughter sets the scene for

the final episode of this series.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Philadelphia Story

Starring: Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant

A fifties classical movie. A Philadelphia newspaper sends Mr. Macall, a journalist, to cover the wedding of the very rich Miss Tracy, and during the wedding the bride changes her mind and marries her old boyfriend Dexter.

Wednesday, Oct. 13

8:30 Head Of The Class

9:10 Documentary — Water Wars

To The Last Drop

A documentary that talks about water wars in the Middle East. At the beginning of the episode, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan talks about the very limited water resources that we have in Jordan and Dr. Munther Hadadin also talks about how to save water.

10:00 News In English

10:20 A Woman Named Jackie

Jackie enters the White House and becomes the first lady of the U.S.

Growing older

By E. Yaghi

Anyone past the age of thirty, to a teenager or child, is aged and anyone who transcends beyond the age of 45 tends to view children as anyone younger than thirty. Getting older is something that can not be helped as long as one plods along the path of life. Strange though, how when a specimen of the human species is young and strong, it thinks that it can move and change the world whereas what really most often happens is that we find the world to some extent or another changing and molding us to suit its purpose.

One day, a strange species called Mr. Homo Sapiens looked in the mirror in a state of shock and exclaimed to his reflection, "oh, my God, there's a gray hair!"

From that moment on, he began to find his entire life one of transformation, for he was on the path to becoming aged. Often, he tried various hair paint to conceal those ever conspicuous gray or more precisely, white hairs that tended to grow as wild as weeds and strangle out the once natural colour of hair that predominated his earlier years. But it wasn't just a matter of covering up the gray, for what about the wrinkles? Mr. Sapiens contemplated the fact that he could always pretend that they were caused by laughing too much, but come on now, the deep furrows that cut into his forehead could hardly be said to have been caused by excessive laughter! And then he noticed that his bones creaked and the desire to sleep 23 out of 24 each day almost overwhelmed him. His elderly head could be seen bobbing at all times and occasions into fits of slumber and when anyone asked: "Say, are you sleeping?"

The guilty old thing will immediately faint complete alertness and tell a lie as big as a mountain: "Why, of course I'm not sleeping, I was just resting my eyes."

Naturally, everyone who was familiar with Mr. Sapiens knew that this was an untruth, for as soon as his head drooped to the side, a round of snoring commenced that sounded like a lion growling. The older Mr. Sapiens liked to also bask a lot in the sun like a toad. It appeared that with the increase in years, his old blood turned colder and the sun began to look like a good place to just sit and ponder about the world around, and if pondering proved too strenuous, then he could always sleep.

At length, Mr. Sapiens decided to carry a cane with the excuse that it served as a weapon of defence or that it made him look more distinguished and not what it really was,

simply something to lean on. And then there evolved that deplorable state of affairs when various members of his body either stopped functioning completely, rusted, or just started to fall off.

"If the human body resembled a car and one could just drive himself into the nearest garage and have a complete overhaul and come out of the repair a renovated human being, then things would be great," elderly Mr. Sapiens mused, just before snoring off in deep slumber on his favourite rocking chair. "But with age, every item in the human physique declines until eventually, every movement is performed with great effort."

Naturally, Mr. Sapiens' children considered him very old (as mentioned previously, old is anything past thirty), and thought him extremely hard of hearing. This explained the constant roar of his children in attempts to attract their elder's attention, to which Mr. Sapiens most often replied with, "don't scream in my ears. I'm not deaf quite yet!"

At infrequent intervals one of his offspring would complain with the worn-out rhetoric statement: "Oh, you wouldn't understand what it's like to be my age!"

Whereas, Mr. Sapiens' likely answer combined with a great deal of irritation would be: "Why so? Believe it or not, I too, was once young. Besides, I'm not senile yet!"

But people as they grow older should not be judged merely on the basis of appearance, but for how young they feel in their hearts. Even though the body might not do exactly as the brain dictates, such as skip, hop, jump, or even just walk, the mind of an elder person still has hopes, dreams, joys, desires and often feels young in spite of wrinkles, gray hair, and shuffling feet. If the young were really as wise as they think they are, they would value the wisdom and experience of their parents and grandparents for no knowledge as gained by wishful thinking but by trial and error. However, unfortunately as it is, the younger generation is usually heedless to advise and prefers to make their own mistakes their own way. Therefore, when an abused person like Mr. Sapiens feels like screaming so he can guide his children onto a safer path, he finds it easier to just shut up and try to grin, grit and bear it.

I think that each person is as young as he feels and instead of someone asking, "how old are you?" (the greatest known insulting question to the female gender) one should instead query, "how young are you?"

Thus the reply might be, "I am 50, (60, 70, 80 or 90) years young!"

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

In South America lives a kind of monkey that uses its tail for clinging on some branches while stretching its arms to hold another branch. Thus it sleeps suspending itself in the air.

Oil can be mixed with water if mulberry is added to them because it contains an acid called "Arsolic."

The oldest Greek translation of the Old Testament is that one known by the "Seventieth Version." It is believed this translation first appeared at Alexandria in 200 B.C.

It's too difficult for bacteria to live in pure honey.

Emperor Nero used to watch the athletic games in the vast sports field with a binocular made of emerald.

Originally, there were no mammals living in New Zealand.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

COFFEE

Coffee is a name for an evergreen shrub or tree. The mature, red fruit (a drupe) typically contains two seeds, or coffee beans. Liberian coffee, Java coffee, Ceylon coffee, and Congo coffee are of some commercial importance. Coffee plants require a hot, moist climate and rich soil. The harvested seeds are cleaned and roasted. Heat acts on the essential oils to produce the aroma and flavour. Roasts range from light brown to the very dark Italian roast. The coffee plant was known before 1000 A.D. in Ethiopia, where its fruit was used for food and wine.

It is usually considered an importation from Arabia at the beginning of the 15th century. In the following century its use spread to Turkey, but it was not until the middle of the 17th century that it was introduced into England. Coffee is a stimulant to the nervous centre. It can cause irritability, depression and indigestion if taken in excess and when mixed with milk and sugar is a valuable beverage. Coffee is an antidote to poisoning by opium and alcohol.

TIME FOR FUN

Two ladies met at a picnic.
First: "How is your daughter?"
Second: "She's quite well. Praise be to Allah. She's got two beautiful children, wears the finest clothes and drives the most splendid cars."
First: "Her husband... what's he doing?"
The second lady's face reddened. She frowned and soon replied:
"It's a calamity, my dear. He doesn't want to marry her."

A French and an American once met.

They started to recall their people's customs.
THE AMERICAN: In my country, if you kiss a woman by force, she'll pay a \$50 fine.
THE FRENCH: But in my own, you'll pay more if she readily consents to kiss her.

TEACHER: Who can tell six animals' names of the cat family?
One of the students answered at once:
"Yes, sir: a cat, a tomcat and four kittens"

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

DAFFODILS: Pleasure and amusement in abundance.

DAGGER: A friend will confer a favour.

DEATH OF A FRIEND: Arrival of good news.

DOVES: Success, especially to lovers. To the married, they denote a pleasure in store.

DUCKS: Increased prosperity and happiness.

DIGGING: Good luck with perseverance.

DROWNING: (Either the dreamer or another person). Success, joy and prosperity.

DEAD: To dream of oneself as dead is a good and auspicious sign of long life and success.

PUZZLES

WORD SQUARE

Can you complete this word-square?
The five-letter words read the same both ACROSS and DOWN.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

(B) FROM TOWN TO TOWN

Below will be seen the names of certain towns in the British Isles. By changing one letter in each and rearranging the letters, the name of another town is formed. For example, by substituting "P" for the "T" in ERITH, the letters can be arranged to make PERTH. The letters removed, when arranged in a certain order, make a word — very nearly.

MARCH BRAY WELLS BOGNOR STOKE SALE

LET'S LEARN ARABIC

AGE

How old are you? Kam omrak?
Twenty-nine years old. Omri tis'a wa kshroon sana.
Next month I shall be thirty.
Fi shahr Et-kadem sa'ablogh minil our thalathoon.
You do not look so old. La yabdo alaika kaza as sin.
You are still quite young. Ma zilta shah'ban.
He is above fifty. Howa fawka el khaseen sana.
My sister is under age. Lam tablogh okhti sinner roshd

You look older. Tabdoo akhar min sinnak.
Great cares make grey hairs. Kallurit el homoom toqassar el ajal.

Strictly Ballroom — a movie many can relate to

FILM REVIEW

Paul Mercurio — Scott Hastings
Tara Morice — Fran
Bill Hunter — Barry Fife
Pat Thomson — Shirley Hastings
Gina Carides — Liz Holt
Peter Whitford — Les Whitford
Barry Otto — Doug Hastings
Screenplay by: Baz Luhrmann and Craig Pearce
Director: Baz Luhrmann
Producer: Tristram Miall
Musical direction and original music: David Hirschfelder
Choreographer: John "Cha Cha" O'Connell
Music by: Bruce Brown
New South Wales Film & TV Office
Sydney, Australia 1992

Winning the Latin American Pan-Pacific Grand Prix is on everyone's mind in a small Australian town. Scott Hastings, clearly rated the number one dancer and most likely to win, resorts to his own dance steps at one of the competitions. Scott loses the competition and is left partnerless.

Scott's parents, who run a dance studio with friend Les, begin their quest for another dance partner for

Scott and demand that Scott dance by federation rules — "right steps with the right partner" or lose all he has been training for since he was six years old.

Only the rather-plain, Spanish speaking Fran is truly interested in Scott's expression and understanding of dance and music. Although only a beginner, Fran asks Scott to be his partner, an offer Scott rejects. After Fran berates Scott, he relents to giving her one hour of dancing. The hour stretches to the three weeks of secret practice prior to the Pan-Pacific Grand Prix.

Meanwhile, Scott continues to appease the studio by trying out with dancers at auditions. He refuses all dancers and states that he will bring his own partner (Fran) to the state championship. There Scott's conflict within himself emerges when the federation convinces the famous Tina to dance with Scott. He has to decide whether to dance his steps with Fran or try to win Pan-Pacific Grand Prix by dancing the federation steps.

Scott's conflict continues until he learns rhythm and "dancing from the heart" from Fran and her family. Only when then does Scott shed his fears and faces himself and the truth about his family and the federation.

The title, music, dazzling dances and fancy costumes can easily render Strictly Ballroom a movie for strictly

pasadable lovers. However, unlike some musicals, this movie does not separate between the narrative and the music. The writer and director, Baz Luhrmann, does not use the entertainment elements to cover up a weak plot or to create a fantasy or a myth. He makes Strictly Ballroom a movie many can relate to.

Strictly Ballroom deals with the contradictions of everyday life and responds to those real needs created by real inadequacies by providing an image of something better to escape into through the musical element.

The intensity and excitement with the dance and music create an honest and open atmosphere, one conducive to resolving conflicts, to changing traditional sex roles and to ending the manipulation of members of society.

The main conflict with Scott is the same conflict present in almost the entire cast... and one that many viewers can probably understand.

The conflict unfolds through the studio's daily routine and its stress on rules and regulations... the standardisation of the dance steps. Luhrmann also uses dance and music to break the routine and the monotony of a dance studio, which ultimately forces the actors and actresses to face their true selves.

Similarly, the music and dance which create the

fragmentation within the Hastings family are also the elements that finally resolve the past the consequently the fragmentation. And it is through the music and dance that new-comer Fran, also a foreigner, is able to shed traditional and conservative roles by asking Scott to be her partner. The twist is that it is Fran who is able to convert Scott's steps into true, heartfelt dancing as opposed to random movements.

Contradictions all present in everyday life, are all resolved one way or another in Strictly Ballroom.

The director has cleverly chosen the actors and actresses. Pat Thomson nicely projects the obsessive, neurotic mother while Barry Otto carries the father's sensitivity laced with moments of eccentricity very well. Not much needs to be said about Paul Mercurio and Tara Morice, who are a pleasure to watch acting and dancing — the latter owing much of the stunning footwork to choreographer John O'Connell. It is refreshing to see a whole cast pulling off exceptional performances without the awkwardness and bad lines sometimes associated with musicals.

By Najwa Najjar-Kort

The writer is currently a filmmaker in Amman.

Hair, at 25, lets the sun shine in

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

LONDON — In a darkened London auditorium where Hair is once again coming to life, 1968 and 1993 briefly seem to be one.

Onstage, three black singers bump and grind their way through "white boys," while director Michael Bogdanov monitors every Supreme-like shimmy. On this occasion, the performers only mime the song's celebrated lyrics — "My daddy wants me stay away / I say come on out and play-ay-ay" — so they can save their voices for that night's preview.

Minutes later, the cast of 26 scans the empty Old Vic Theatre with flashlights, as they will do to the audience during each performance.

"It's sinister, very, very sinister," Bogdanov says of the moment.

And offstage, the two

men behind Broadway's legendary tribal rock musical — co-author James Rado and composer Galt McDermot — look on in wonder, amazed that a '60s cultural touchstone is finding new life a quarter century later.

It's nuts, totally nuts," said McDermot, whose silver hair and L. L. Bean jacket suggest an aging golfer, not a begetter of the best-known countercultural musical ever. (The show's third originator, co-writer Jerome Ragni, died in 1991).

"It feels like we're in Hollywood here, like we're working on a big-time movie," said Rado. "There are 150 people working in this theatre every day."

This new Hair is a \$3.08 million co-production between Canada's David Mirvish, owner of the Old Vic with his brother, Ed, and real-estate tycoon Abe Hirschfeld, who made

waves in New York earlier this year when he attempted to buy the bankrupt New York Post.

The show opened on Sept. 14 in the 970-seat theatre. The cast includes American actor Paul Hipp (Buddy), Australian heart-throb Felice Arena (from the TV soap Neighbours), and pop singers Sinitta and Pepsi Lawrie Demacque. John Barrowman, born in Scotland but raised in the United States, plays the pivotal role of the doomed Claude.

If this is the biggest Hair, it is also in some ways the riskiest.

After all, Hair in 1968 was as much a celebration of free love as a musical — a simultaneously festive and fearless piece whose prodigious, anti-war message was inseparable from the decade that gave it life.

Or was it?

"Hair isn't just for the

'60s," argues Bogdanov, 54, who was in the audience at the 1968 London opening night to witness the famous full frontal nudity first-act ending. "It's not just for the '90s; it's for the future. Without that, I wouldn't have been able to do it."

Said Rado: "I'd still like Hair to be about what it was about then: Hair had a spiritual message, and it has a mystical message I hope is coming through — there's more to life than the way it's been devised for us, explained to us, taught to us."

The question, then, is whether Hair is resilient enough to withstand AIDS, the passing of the Reagan-Bush era and such renewed atrocities as the war in Bosnia.

On that last topic, its creators point to the show's recent success in Sarajevo, with a newly adapted version of the show performed

by Muslims, Croats and Serbs that is expected to tour to the United States.

"The fact that this is an anti-Vietnam war piece doesn't invalidate it in terms of any other war raging in the world," said Bogdanov in an interview. "In that sense, it's like any play taken out of its time and used to exemplify something happening in the world."

The director spoke of a poignance in the failure of the vision prescribed in the show to come to any kind of realisation.

"The sad thing is that 25 years on, the world is in an even worse state than it was then — the pollution, the juggernauts, the wars," he said. "I feel that pathos very strongly."

Rado said the show was about a "human experiment" that over time "sort of fell apart and collapsed and was subverted."

Said Galt McDermot: "There was really a very big reaction against the values of Hair in the '70s as soon as Nixon came in: now people are beginning to think they can look at it again." (A 1977 Broadway revival was, accordingly, a fast flop).

This production has been thought of "freshly and organically," said Rado, who has written new verses for Aquarius, Black Boys and Good Morning Starshine.

One new song — How I Love My Hippie Life — will be added for use as an encore once the show has opened.

In addition, he mentioned "Changes we would have made anyway" one line about eating "crackers and cheese in bed" has been amended to "to prevent disease, please use one of these in bed," referring to condoms.

Giant murals bring colour to still life of Spanish village

By Robert Hart
Reuters

ESCARICHE, Spain — In the simple central Spanish village of Escariche the concept of painting the town has acquired a new meaning.

Locked away in rocky hills 65 kilometres east of Madrid, Escariche has an ageing and dwindling population of less than 300, a slightly faded and crumbling air and apparently little to deserve a second look.

First impressions can de-

ceive and Escariche repays second, third and several more glances.

The walls of dozens of houses in the village's steeply sloping streets have been turned into an impromptu, open-air gallery of paintings by a group of Spanish and foreign avant-garde artists.

Escariche has more than 40 eye-catching, modernistic murals which make startling contrast to the ancient stone walls and the weathered red tiles of its roofs.

Behind the new town hall,

the house on the street corner displays a giant hand with a globe dangling from the index finger.

On a wall across the main square a naked, bearded man sits astride a rearing horse against a background of rolling countryside in pale blue and black.

At the bottom of a steep, stepped street, with rough, open country immediately behind, a small house boasts a giant mural of stylised white doves on a deep blue background with a garish sun

winking one eye.

Almost every street has pictures. At the bottom of the village sheep wander past images of a sliced orange, a giant fly and blue- and pink-trimmed darts.

Off the main street young boys race their bicycles past a still life of cherries above a bowl of fruit.

It began in the mid-1980s when painter Rufino De Mingo, who had experience of painting murals in Latin America, decided something had to be done to freshen up

his home village.

He organised a group of artist friends to come to Escariche to give the place a multi-coloured facelift.

Since then artists have come every year — Spanish, Latin American, German, French, even Japanese — to leave their bold, 20th century mark on the centuries-old walls of Escariche.

The painters have to ask permission of the house owners before they start their work but most agree. The artists themselves pay for the

painting materials.

Some artists lodge or are fed at the De Mingo family home.

What do the locals think about the art work on, or around, their doorstep?

"People are generally very happy about it. We may not understand what the pictures are about but they give us something to talk about," said Luz Del Moral, an elderly woman whose house features surrealist heads in turquoise and orange.

Some of the older paintings

are showing the effects of exposure to the fierce summer sun and biting winter cold of central Spain.

"There isn't anything much we can do to preserve them but we do what we can to stop them being harmed," Luz said.

Have the paintings brought visitors to Escariche?

"Yes, we get quite a lot of visitors, but we cannot do much for them as we have no tourist infrastructure here — hotels or restaurants," said

another resident.

Meetings and exhibitions about the Escariche paintings have been held in the small town of Pastrana, 12 kilometres away, he said.

A few years ago Escariche had to cut down most of its elm trees when they became diseased. The artists have managed to make something even out of this misfortune.

Several felled trunks have been carved and painted in totem pole fashion and adorn corners.

Here comes The Fairer Sax

By Heidi Munan

KUALA LUMPUR — Anne-Louise and Gabrielle Lane heard it early on — "Play the saxophone? But...you're girls!" Now, near the peak of a career in entertainment and still playing the saxophone, they just shrug it off. "We got used to it. There's some prejudice against women doing anything unusual," says Anne-Louise. "When we started out, we were a saxophone quartet. Even that was considered strange 10 years ago. Solo sax with a rhythm group, yes. Saxophone section in a big band, yes. But a saxophone quartet?"

In their early days, when they had to make their way in the musical world, gender may have occasionally worked in their favour. People engaged them because they were a novelty — "those sheilas with their saxophones, you know!" — not expecting much by way of musical quality but hoping to offer the public something new. At other times, they got the if-sax-then-men brush-off.

"Prejudice may have helped us get gigs sometimes," surmised Anne-Louise. "It cuts both ways. When we started our group and needed a catchy name, it didn't take Gabrielle long to think of one: The Fairer Sax."

In the western Australian town where the Lane family lived and the sisters grew

up, no one denied that the Lane girls were musical. They all shared a love for music which came naturally, and today the Fairer Sax is not shy in front of an audience. Anne-Louise and her sister whizzed through the approved Royal School exams, starting with the piano and graduating to saxophone "because we liked the look of the instrument," confessed Gabrielle, who started to play when she was 8.

Anne-Louise received her Licentiate of Trinity College, London, in Australia. She then went to college in England, where she received a Bachelor of Music. Gabrielle also received her Licentiate in Australia and then studied at the Royal Academy of Music in England, where she offered oboe as her principal subject because the sax wasn't considered classical enough.

The Lane sisters say the saxophone is the ideal instrument for an ensemble player, for a soloist, for playing jazz or swing or pop, or any classical piece you care to name, and their public is easily convinced. Their early public engagements were with school orchestras in western Australia. Their first overseas trip to Vienna — half way round the world — was with the West Australian Schools Concert Band.

"We started playing mainly classical," Gabrielle

said. "When we first set up as a quartet, we wore decorous black dresses and sat on chairs with music stands in front of us. There is still a demand for classical recitals even now. We've done them on TV. Two of our albums are mostly classical music. Our concerts usually include at least a couple of classical pieces."

In the early days, while appearing in a local music competition to gain recognition and exposure, the Lane sisters received what must rank as the most uplifting putdown in the annals of music. "You girls did very well. You did extremely well. I'm not going to give you the award — you're going to get to the top anyway!"

There was a prophecy in that verdict. The quartet, made up of the sisters and female partners who varied, decided to add discreet touches of colour to the black dresses. Touches of choreography crept into the programmes. The music stands went, except as props.

Handel's The Arrival Of The Queen Of Sheba is played by the artists in pink-trimmed period dresses, topped off by tall white wigs. The sheet music loops from stand to stand in one long scroll, which gets tangled up from time to time — but no one misses one note of this exuberant march.

By the time the next

number is under way, the performers have whipped off each other's wigs, stepped out of their voluminous gowns and slipped into a bebop beat. They sing, they dance, they play some more — they usually do all three with the effortless ease of superb musicians and born entertainers.

The Fairer Sax is far more than a saxophone quartet. It is an exciting new concept in the field of music and visual entertainment. These exceptionally talented, versatile musicians, backed by their own rhythm section of piano, bass and drums, combine a diversity of musical styles, witty instrumental and vocal arrangements and sparkling choreography with panache and humour. Add to this a range of glamorous costumes, and it is easy to see why The Fairer Sax is widely acclaimed as an outstanding stage attraction.

"To think I used to make our own costumes," sighed Gabrielle, after an evening of slipping in and out of half a dozen changes. But they still do a lot on their own: Anne-Louise does a lot of the arrangements. After the music is written down, it is subjected to critical review by all performers. Some of the choreography just "evolves," while other parts are painstakingly arranged and then completely changed while rehearsing. "We spark off each other,

sort of," explained Valerie Stark, the current partner of the Lane sisters.

Each performer has her strength. Anne-Louise plays the soprano saxophone. The tallest of the group, she is the "big sister" and, in some respects, the leader. Gabrielle plays the alto saxophone and is full of glamour. She is also the business manager. Valerie, the smallest member of the group, plays the biggest instrument, the tenor saxophone, and, sometimes, the baritone. "Enough to break your neck," she conceded, but she puts on an effortless musical performance with touches of natural clowning that put a very special sparkle on each act.

A typical Fairer Sax show is an evening of top-drawer cabaret, a trip through the history and geography of music from the Middle Ages to Ragtime, from Handel to Ravel, smoky barroom Kurt Weill and ethereal Rimsky-Korsakov. Brubeck, Gershwin, Cole Porter, Pat Ballard, Bofford — The Fairer Sax programme includes a role call of all that's exciting in the world of modern music. And when they asked a friend, Karen Street, to "write us some real music," Street obliged with an "Irish Reel" that explodes all over the stage.

The Fairer Sax are on the road for part of the year, balancing family and



The Lane sisters, Gabrielle (left) who plays alto sax, and Anne-Louise (right) who plays soprano sax, strike a pose with their tenor sax player.

career. This isn't always easy, although Anne-Louise's husband Duncan Allen is the leader of a highly successful British jazz trio that also forms The Fairer Sax's back-up rhythm section. Children are sometimes left at home with grandparents, sometimes taken along with a nanny. All six tour together when they can, but often the Duncan Allen Trio has its own commitments. Gabrielle's banker husband joins the group on tour occasionally, but there are periods of separation. Such hard decisions are part of an artist's life.

The Fairer Sax have played at venues which include the Purcell Room on the South Bank, London, where they made their debut, the Edinburgh Festival, the Royal Albert Hall, the Royal Festival Hall and the Queen Elizabeth Hall. They have performed with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the London Symphony Orchestra. They played in a John Slessinger film and in BBC programmes. They have also presented their own TV shows.

The Fairer Sax won the Knokke Heist Festival cabaret competition in Bel-

gium, which was broadcast all over Europe. They have appeared in the Intorfestival in the Caribbean, the World Saxophone Congress in London and in Japan, the Hong Kong Arts Festival and the Singapore Arts Festival.

When they're at home in England, they cut records. To date, they have done five: Saxpressions (Saxtrax), Diversions (Saydisc), Blowing Hot and Cool (Collins), The French Collection (Collins), and Comparing Notes (The Fairer Sax/Lambourne Productions) — World News Link.

Japan's taboo on discussing cancer is crumbling, but secrecy persists

By Laura King
The Associated Press

TOKYO — The Popular TV variety-show host was grim but calm. He faced the cameras and said bluntly: "I have cancer."

In the United States, it's common for celebrities to come forward with accounts of a struggle with the disease. But in Japan, the topic has traditionally been taboo.

To some, 48-year-old Masataka Isumi's disclosure was the latest sign that the cancer stigma is finally breaking down.

Cancer is the country's No. 1 killer, claiming more than 230,000 lives a year. Despite the numbers of people affected, the subject has long been shrouded in a secrecy and silence.

As a rule, people here are reluctant to tell anyone other than family if they have cancer, and Japanese doctors often lie to patients about a cancer diagnosis, fearing they would be demoralized and weakened by the truth.

Polls indicate most people would prefer to be told if they have cancer. But health authorities have estimated as

few as one in five cancer patients is given a truthful diagnosis.

"The patient is very afraid to hear of having cancer, so many doctors just don't tell," said Dr. Tsunero Kawai of the National Cancer Centre. "But if we don't tell the truth, it's bad for the doctor-patient relationship. So I think this is beginning to change."

He said he believed the intense public interest in the Isumi case reflected pent-up curiosity and concern about the subject.

TV networks played and replayed long clips of the news conference at which the TV personality announced he was taking a leave of absence for treatment of stomach cancer.

The story made all the newspapers, and Isumi's network, Nippon Television, said it had been flooded with calls of support and sympathy.

"Some people say they want to tell their stories (of their own illness) to him," said spokesman Seishi Hiro-

ta. "This kind of news conference was never done before."

There are other signs of greater openness in confronting cancer. Support groups for cancer victims, once unknown, have been springing up. The plot of a popular recent movie revolved around a man with cancer. An unusually powerful television commercial, appealing for bone marrow donations, features a young woman who has since died of leukemia.

But secrecy about cancer is still common.

In Japan, serious illness is considered embarrassing.

People worry about causing suffering and expense for their families, or inconveniencing their colleagues.

Isumi, in fact, began his news conference by apologizing. He said he had initially lied about the nature of his illness because he had feared causing trouble for others.

Other factors contribute to the taboo on talk about cancer. There is a cultural tendency toward reticence in discussing personal matters and stoicism in facing problems.

And in Japan's indigenous

religion, Shinto, to which most people at least nominally adhere, illness is strongly associated with contamination and impurity.

Even if patients sense something is very wrong despite a smoothing diagnosis, most do not press their doctors or seek a second opinion. Doctors are accorded deep respect in a society that discourages questioning authority.

Sometimes associates of well-known figures insist on keeping their cancer secret while they are alive, and admit the truth only after death.

Emperor Hirohito died of intestinal cancer in 1989, but throughout his long illness the palace said he was suffering from a duodenal ulcer. There, a double taboo was at work — cancer secrecy and the traditional hands-off coverage of the imperial family.

When prominent politician Shintaro Abe died in 1991, officials of his party gave the cause as liver failure. But his wife later acknowledged he had died of pancreatic cancer.

Pakistan loses youth to drugs

By Arif Jamal

ISLAMABAD — Ismael (not his real name), age 32, has been a junior clerk in a government office in Islamabad for the last 11 years. He used to be very hard working; then six years ago he started smoking hashish and within a year he found himself hooked on heroin. No-one ever tried to help him fight the addiction.

Although he still comes to the office every day, he hardly does anything to justify his salary. Even his bosses have stopped giving him work. He spends most of the work day on the office lawn smoking heroin and talking to himself for hours. Although everybody in the office knows Ismael is a drug addict, no-one seems bothered about the state he is in.

Ismael is just one example of how drugs have become a way of life in Pakistan. Here, drug addicts are a reality which everyone seems to have accepted. Apart from a few individual efforts, there is no organised campaign to stop what is usually referred to as a "menace" from spreading. Neither the state nor any private organisation has stepped in, and even the press seems oblivious.

Among a population of

approximately 117 million, it is almost impossible to evaluate the real number of drug addicts in the country. The government's conservative estimates put the number of addicts at about 4 million, of which around 1.7 million are heroin addicts. In addition to the 4 million drug addicts, around 2 million people regularly consume tranquilisers, sedatives and hypnotics, legal drugs which are sold in the open market under brand names such as Valium, Diazepam, Ativan, Librium, Lexatonil, Largactil, Nobrium, Relaxipam, and Serepax.

The reasons for drug addiction are mostly socio-economic and not medical. Ismael says his friends suggested that he use hashish (later heroin) to forget the lack of money which had made his domestic life hell. He says, "My wife used to make demands which could not be satisfied with my meager salary and I could not find a better job." He did try to quit heroin in the beginning, but stopped fighting it when he discovered that it was not so easy, and no help was available. He says his wife still makes undue demands but he does not feel pushed about after I have smoked some heroin."

The real problem is not that drug addiction is spreading in Pakistan, but that people have accepted drugs and are ready to live with them. To be associated with known drug barons is not considered socially unacceptable. In fact, one may earn respect that way because of the wealth which drug barons boast about. Since the early 1980s, suspected and known drug traffickers have been seen around ministers and prime ministers. Some have even occupied high government office.

Besides businessmen, the drug barons include influential politicians, former ministers and parliamentarians. Because of the money at their disposal, several of them are likely to be elected again to the federal and provincial assemblies. Although the recent International Narcotics Control Strategy Report prepared by the U.S. government says there were three parliamentarians in the recently dissolved assemblies who dealt in drugs, the press has been pointing to several other parliamentarians for their illegal activities.

Ayub Afridi is said to be running the biggest narcotics syndicate in Pakistan. In 1981, he was tried and convicted in absentia by a mili-

tary court on drug trafficking charges. But he never served the sentence; instead he took refuge in his fortress-like house in the tribal zone in the Northwest Frontier Province which borders Afghanistan, where Pakistani laws do not apply. With his immense wealth — which he claims to have earned through the "crockery business" — he won elections in 1990. He even succeeded in becoming a minister in the caretaker cabinet, which lasted only 39 days, when the government of Nawaz Sharif was dismissed in April this year.

Others are following in Mr. Afridi's footsteps. The recently dissolved national and provincial assemblies had, respectively, four and seven members from Baluchistan who were suspected of being involved in drug dealing. This spring, the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board officials leaked to the press that they were being pressured to drop cases of drug trafficking against Asim Kurd, then sitting member of the Baluchistan Provincial Assembly. He later absconded, only to avoid government pressure by making the affair public. And if drug dealers don't go into politics themselves, they use their money to

finance the campaigns of other politicians.

In any other country, Ali Mohammad Notezai — another suspected drug baron — would be running for his life; but here in his hometown he enjoys all the good things life has to offer. He has twice been elected to the Provincial Assembly of Baluchistan. He is facing charges for drug trafficking in a local court. His right-hand man, Sakhi Jan Dost, has been in prison for more than a year on charges of manufacturing and trafficking in heroin. One relative is on the run from the police, and a nephew has been hanged in Iran on similar charges.

Law enforcement

Enforcement of the laws relating to drug pushing or trafficking is lax. Waseem Kausar, a senior police officer, says Pakistani police are overworked and understaffed. "Narcotics control is not high on police priorities. Narcotics do not create law and order problems, which is the main job of the police," he noted. "The job of the police is to maintain law and order; 60 per cent of policing goes into this. For police, narcotics are not something serious, emergent or sensational, hence least important. Keeping order takes precedence over law, if they have to make choices."

Mr. Kausar justifies this concept of policing by explaining that "it is a universal phenomenon. I have seen in several British cities and towns police turning their face the other way when they see drug pushers. They know there would be law and order problems if they tried to apply the law in areas where narcotics are sold."

Drug addiction is not restricted to the poorer section of the population. It has cut across social classes. The common trait often shared by addicts is that they are unhappy with their lives or the conditions surrounding them. In Pakistan, drugs find easy victims and surveys show that narcotics have particularly affected the young. Many of them have nothing to look forward to.

One survey at Karachi University found that every third student was hooked on some drug. Although they came from relatively better-off classes, most of them became addicted because they were not happy. Drug addiction among the young has given birth to a new wave of crime. In recent years, young men from affluent classes have been found to be involved in many crimes to support their habit.

One university student, Farhat, has been smoking hashish for the last two years. She also smokes heroin once in a while for the sake of what she calls "a change." For her, it is a sign of liberation. She says Western women gained liberation by breaking taboos, and smoking drugs is one of the taboos which should be broken. She also says that her parents' oppressive attitude drove her to find refuge in drugs.

Her justifications for drugs notwithstanding, she admitted that she is losing sight of the differences between right and wrong. She said she has already committed a few thefts just to



For centuries the tribes of Baluchistan near the Afghan border have made money from drug trafficking, but today the ante has been raised by the large influx of drugs from Afghanistan.

buy the narcotics. She did not rule out indulging in more serious crimes if she needed money for a fix.

She said several of her classmates in college smoked hashish. "I also started smoking it when I found that my hashish-smoking friends were happier than the others," she said. Had her family been less conservative and less strict, she would not have considered resorting to drugs, she repeated, adding that drug addiction is a solution for cowardly people who cannot face reality.

Although many in Pakistan believe that the drug epidemic could not have assumed its present proportions without police connivance, no police officer is willing to comment on this. Several drug addicts in Islamabad — including Farhat — said that they buy drugs from the Margalla Hills Den, only a few hundred metres from one of Islamabad's police stations. Farhat says there is a police constable on the solitary route to the Den whenever she goes there to buy hashish. Her interpretation is that he keeps watch on the customers so that the police know the amount of business done when they get their cut of the profits.

Inadequate system

A senior police officer who did not want to be identified, says the problem comes from the way the system works. "Our police system remains what the British colonialists put in place to run a colony. Well, the system which was good to run a colony does not work any more... Police work long hours but are paid inadequately. With the salaries they get they can hardly keep body and soul together. Let alone feed their families."

And the police are not rewarded in any way when they arrest drug pushers or traffickers, he added. That is another reason why they usually pay more attention to controlling other crimes which are considered more serious by the government and gain them promotion.

Failure to control the spread of narcotics is in fact part of the nation's overall failure to evolve institutions. Pakistan has been under military rule for most of the 47 years of its independent existence, and the primary concern of the

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ROYALTY
By Joan D. Berbrich

ACROSS

1. User's main
2. "I'm sorry as
3. Karmas.
4. Phoned
5. boy
6. expression
7. Drug bust
8. Dr. Scott
9. Jockey, VIP
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DOWN

1. Intend
2. Mrs. Eddie Carter
3. German
4. Scold
5. Sent out
6. Gold ring, a p.
7. Handle clumsily
8. Aesthetic
9. value
10. Enthusiastic
11. Saint's name
12. Lacking
13. interest
14. "Futurist"
15. Hal or hen
16. Shirley Temple
17. Camp unit
18. Wading
19. Flood
20. Wimp
21. "Dallas" family
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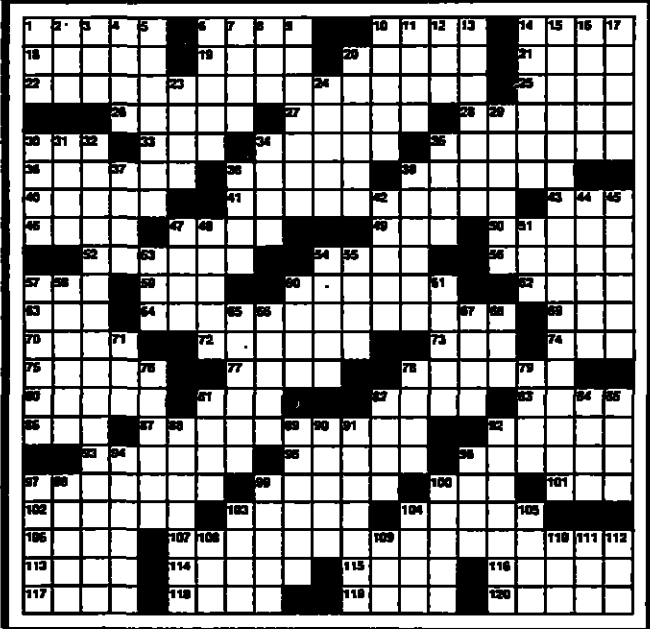
Diagramless 17 x 17. By Craig Schultz

ACROSS

1. Prepare for war
2. Send by water
3. Slightly substance
4. Trained
5. person
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9. person
10. person
11. person
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DOWN

1. Nibble
2. Corn
3. Why remark
4. Berries
5. Vietnam day
6. English person
7. High school
8. silent
9. Niv. off
10. Disregards
11. Freedom of access
12. Ram's partner
13. Actor's name
14. Memento of Castor
15. Had a thing for
16. Currier and
17. On the way
18. Lovers
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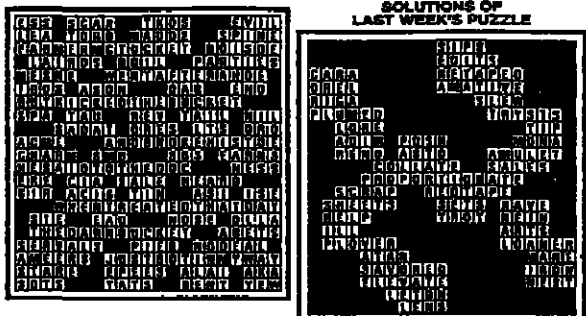


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Poor stammered plover leaves impudent mate he called her a birdbrain.
2. Dabbling in computers may be dangerous, as they're scrupulously honest.
3. Although earthen and reindeer might be similar, each is quite unique.
4. Sticky skunk skunk, and sticky ducks duck, but clearly, bats do not better.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. XJBKJXB RTQS TEBQT QDTYB KJSA
XLDY KJLT BJ HEMX KEYDST DQS IXJ
JIYE JYT XLYAHTA MQBE. —By Earl Ireland
2. DYN COCA CDDING BDQ CYA CUDDLING
ZDN SPXN DQB COCKIG COCKIG. PDQ
SXLI ZUXIG. —By Duane H. McGee
3. CDFGJKE CLMN PQE LPPQENLHDJ FEJN
RFGC CFGC MS QSJ DFGC RFG. —By Rita Salvo
4. CRRKES ORRKEKIC CROOKS ORPP OR
ERRUMD ZRRRREKS OUTTUMD
TKSDKCP. —By Frank N. Stein



SOLUTIONS

PUZZLES

(A) WORD SQUARE

FLEET
LEAVE
EASES
EVENT
TESTS

(B) FROM TOWN TO TOWN

BRAY — BURY
WELLS — LEWES
MARCH — CHARD
BOGNOR — BANGOR
SALE — DEAL
STOKE — KELSO

Word formed is ALMOST

Features

'The peace dividend must put an end to the politics of deprivation, fear and despair'

WASHINGTON (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said that peace in the Middle East should put an end to the deprivation, fear and despair policies which are considered a fertile soil for extremism.

In his address to the forty eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Crown Prince Hassan called for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. He also emphasised the right of the countries who received refugees in receiving compensation.

Following is the full text of His Royal Highness's address:

Mr. President, Secretary General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should like at the outset to extend to you, Mr. President, my sincere congratulations on your well-deserved election. I would like to wish you and the other members of the bureau success in the discharge of your important duties. I had a chance to congratulate last session's president when I saw him in Amman, and I should now like to reiterate my gratitude for his competent presidency.

Mr. President,

The cold war may be over, but its death knell reverberates around the globe. The comforting ideological certainties of superpower confrontation are long gone. What have we to replace them? The new world order, with its promise of peace through collective security, has come upon a baptism of fire. And still it would appear that no common frame of reference, no new consensus, no global ethic, has emerged.

As we enter the new millennium, we see the human spirit under siege as never before. Across the world, the voices of millions cry out in desperation for relief, for guidance. If we, the peoples of the United Nations, are to be true to our humanity, we must reappraise this situation that is of our own making. We must learn its lessons, no matter how hard, and we must apply them. It is our task, today and in the days to come, to fashion principles and practices for a truly new world order. In all fields of human endeavour, we need a new ethic for a new era.

The balance of world power politics has given way. Ethnic nationalism has reemerged, a phenomenon in which the unifying bond of common citizenship is replaced by racial or religious exclusivity. As a consequence, we face a series of apparently endless wars of attrition, fought to secure the domination of one ethnic nationalism over another. This trend must be reversed if our world is to be made safe from the spreading contagion of conflict.

Many over the years have thought it impossible, but the Middle East is bucking this alarming trend. The signing, on September 13th, of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, represents a significant step towards the achievement of a negotiated settlement in our troubled region.

On the Jordanian-Israeli track, a common agenda, which has been carefully worked out over the last year and a half, has now been adopted. We trust that this will signify the commencement of serious and substantive negotiations on the various elements of that agenda, with the aim of achieving just and mutually satisfactory solutions.

These developments are not only a triumph for the politics of consensus, but also for the international morality, which the U.N. advocates, and the legality it upholds. Over the years, this august assembly has passed resolution after resolution calling for a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question that lies at its core. Finally, the main actors are playing the leading part in shaping their own destinies.

My country, has always sought to bring this prolonged and bitter conflict to an end, and in our search for solutions, we have constantly aimed to reconcile peace and justice. Jordan has advocated a negotiated settlement based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 longer than any other party. Under the new arrangements, all parties to the conflict are committed to the implementation of these resolutions, affirming a cardinal

principle of international law: the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force.

There is an equally important principle to bear in mind, however. Peace cannot be piecemeal. It must be comprehensive if it is to be viable. As foreseen by the Madrid framework for the peace talks, some issues cannot be addressed by any two parties to the exclusion of others. The questions of regional security, water, and above all the refugees, cannot be resolved without direct reference to the neighbouring states. The status of Jerusalem has to be determined in a similar way. The legitimate rights which the three great monotheistic faiths share in the Holy City must be guaranteed, and claims of political and administrative sovereignty accommodated to the satisfaction of all.

In view of Jordan's long association with the Palestinian question, the PLO-Israeli agreement will have major implications for our legitimate interests. At a time when new entities are being formed, and orderly transfer of power and authority is vital. Only this can safeguard the rights of existing states and those of individuals. There are questions to address about state property, archives, debts, treaties, nationality, salaries, pensions — the list is long but not exhaustive. Jordan will seek modalities for their resolution with the relevant parties through our agenda.

The refugee question is of paramount importance. It should not, and must not, be forgotten that the individuals affected have under international law a right of return and compensation, and their host countries are likewise entitled to compensation. Jordan has shouldered an enormous human load as a result of the conflict. Three waves of involuntary migrants — the refugees of 1948, the evacuees of 1967, and the returnees of 1991 — have sought shelter and succour in Jordan. Our treatment of these and other displaced persons has been exemplary: we have provided them with education and health services, with jobs and welfare. Citizens of Jordan, whether of Palestinian or Jordanian origin, enjoy civil and human rights equally, and participate as equals in our democratisation process. Jordan seems an equitable, sustainable international approach to the treatment of our demographic burden, for it would be unconscionable to penalise host countries for their humanitarian policies.

Another crucial issue is water. Our agenda strikes a delicate balance between the need for optimal utilisation of scarce resources on one hand, and the equally imperative need to define the rights and duties of riparian states on the other. We also look forward to definitive delineation of our borders with Israel, thereby giving concrete expression to the right of every nation to live in secure and internationally recognised borders.

When the euphoria has subsided, these serious and complex questions will remain. The PLO-Israeli accord, historic as it is, represents a first step towards Palestinian final status, which in turn will allow the Palestinians to take part in comprehensive regional security and cooperation arrangements. For the Middle East cannot be reduced to a single issue: it more closely resembles a tapestry woven of numerous intertwining threads.

One of these wider regional issues — the suffering of the Iraqi people — demands urgently to be addressed. A succession of independent reports has brought to light the special impact of continued sanctions upon the most vulnerable segments of Iraqi society, in particular the children. The sanctions regime that daily takes its toll on the people of Iraq also has adverse consequences for neighbouring states, including Jordan and Turkey. Issues such as this must be resolved if the Middle East is to seize its chance for lasting peace. A cooperative security system will help to protect the security of the states and peoples of the region. We can only avert the kind of destabilising conflicts that followed the end of the cold war in Eurasia by making arrangements to ensure our common future, underpinned by the full support of the international community.

Despite these outstanding questions, I have no doubt that

the extraordinary achievements of autumn 1993 will be seen in years to come as the start of a fresh course in the settlement of regional conflicts. The politics of dialogue and reconciliation have been our regional and domestic priorities, for they are essential to the democratic process. We seek to extend the principles of consensus and collective security to the Middle East to create a new regional order. An order which recognises the right of each individual to lead a life free from fear, want and despair. An order which will provide justice to all peoples and states. An order in which the U.N. and its agencies can play a positive role not only in humanitarian intervention or the protection of human rights, but in active peace-keeping and peace-making.

Jordan applauds Secretary General Ghali for his valiant efforts to overhaul the U.N. structure and personnel, injecting fresh sense of purpose commensurate with the new challenges. It is in the interest of all members of this body to see international law respected and upheld. We must assist the secretary general in determining the criteria for U.N. intervention, whether in Lebanon, Iraq, Somalia, Bosnia, Angola, Cambodia, or anywhere else. The terms of reference embodied in Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter must be clearly defined, with checks and balances provided, to avoid the erosion of the independence and territorial sovereignty of member states. There is also an urgent need for well-trained international peace keeping forces, which could be established under a reconstituted military staff committee. The 'modus operandi' for all U.N. action, irrespective of the issue at hand, must be the supremacy of the rule of law and the uniformity of its application. Double standards should not, and must not, be permitted, lest abuse of the law becomes the accepted norm.

A wider issue concerning this organisation is that of Security Council reform. Jordan adds its voice to the host of countries who have called for a reassessment of the structure of the Security Council. Clearly, conditions in the world have changed dramatically since the formation of the council, and we believe that these should be reflected in its composition. Jordan also lends its support to the secretary general's proposals for post-conflict peace-building, outlined in his Agenda for Peace.

For in every part of the world, peace will remain illusory unless it touches the daily lives of ordinary people. Peace will not take root except in an environment conducive to regional cooperation and mutual security, and committed to the welfare of individual human beings. The development of economic infrastructure, and provisions for investment in public services, are as crucial as the questions of territorial sovereignty, national identity, and security. It is for this reason that Jordan welcomes the recently convened Conference to Support Middle East Peace as timely and pragmatic. The peace dividend in my region, as elsewhere, must put an end to the politics of deprivation, fear and despair, the breeding ground for political extremism and rejection.

The disparities and distortions created by half a century of conflict in the Middle East have given rise to such phenomena: that is undeniable. However, there is considerable alarm in the Muslim world at suggestions that Islam may replace Communism as a global threat. These suggestions are informed by a skewed perception of Islam as a monolithic creed of violence, intolerance and oppression.

Islam is not the new enemy. Extremism does exist within the Muslim world, much as it exists in the Christian world, the Jewish world, the Hindu world, the secular world. But to employ reductive stereotypes which demonise one fifth of the world's population must ultimately be self-defeating. It can only result in the breed of senseless violence that has brought untold suffering and loss of life to Bosnia. Rather than seeking an enemy at the gates, let us each in our own communities look inwards, and address the disparities and the despair that are the true causes of extremism and conflict. Let us join together to do battle with the real enemy.

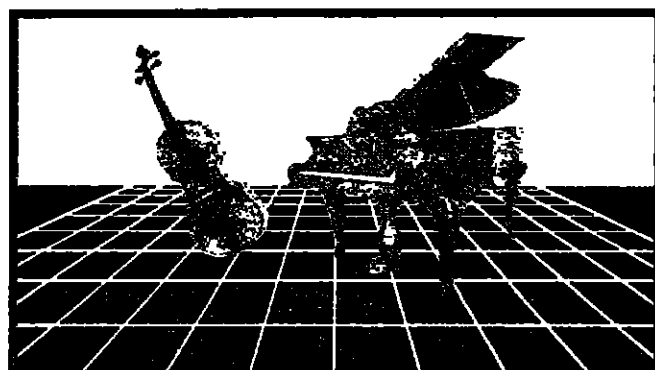
That enemy is a new world of each for himself. That his what we must combat, with all

both pragmatism and idealism. Is the triple pillar of democracy: human rights and the

"Peace cannot be piecemeal. It must be comprehensive if it is to be viable. As foreseen by the Madrid framework for the peace talks, some issues cannot be addressed by any two parties to the exclusion of others. The questions of regional security, water, and above all, the refugees, cannot be resolved without direct reference to the neighbouring states. The status of Jerusalem has to be determined in a similar way. The legitimate rights which the three great monotheistic faiths share in the Holy City must be guaranteed, and claims of political and administrative sovereignty accommodated to the satisfaction of all."

the resources at our disposal. For the politics and economics of exclusivity are the bane of

free market the ceiling of our ambition? Democracy and free market economics are excep-



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3	5291	25	491
4	19506	26	14400
5	598	27	509
6	13630	28	4027
7	3046	29	14568
8	3400	30	502
9	6485	31	19820
10	9710	32	5421
11	4124	33	11693
12	12883	34	16453
13	5471	35	19256
14	5160	36	595
15	5310	37	13457
16	12948	38	5482
17	19533	39	4077
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Russia to clamp down on dollar shops and services

MOSCOW (R) — Russia is to clamp down on shops and services supplying goods for convertible currency, banning cash dollar sales and ordering banks to report details of firms depositing foreign currency.

A central bank document signed by Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko said the new rules would take effect Jan. 1. Shops and services would not be allowed to accept foreign cash, although payments with credit and debit cards would be possible.

Bankers said they understood the need for the new regulation. "Of course, the

national currency must be given priority in its own country," said Mikhail Smirnov, head of Inkombank's strategy department.

"People will still be able to exchange roubles for foreign currencies. The aim of this move is mainly... to strengthen the rouble's standing and prevent another currency from swallowing a share of the market," he added.

Hundreds of shops across Moscow, and dozens in other Russian cities, currently sell imported goods for foreign currency cash. The dollar has virtually become a parallel cur-

rency. Shops are also obliged to accept roubles as payment, but can choose which exchange rate to charge. Most set a lower rouble rate than the one offered in banks and exchange booths.

A Western diplomat said the new regulations would not make much difference, provided Russia had managed to stabilise the rouble and bring inflation down before the rules began to bite.

If this was not the case, shops currently selling goods for hard currency might not know what rouble prices to

charge. Russian officials have long said that they intended to ban trade in convertible currency in a move to normalise the economy. But they have said this cannot be done until progress has been made on stabilising the economy.

"Payments can be conducted both in roubles and in foreign currency in all internationally accepted forms... with the exception of payments in cash," the seven-point central bank document said.

It made no mention of foreign currency wages and salar-

ies. A ban on foreign currency salary payments was strictly enforced during the Soviet era, but it has since been relaxed and most Russians working for Western firms are paid in dollars.

Russian consumer prices rose almost 30 per cent in August, the highest monthly rate this year. The rouble has been stable for much of the summer, although it lost more than half of its value against the dollar in the first half of the year.

Dealers now expect the currency, which is not freely con-

vertible, to decline gently as Russian prices rise.

They do not expect a repetition of last month's rouble crash, when the currency plunged 18 per cent in a single day.

Dealers said uncertainty about Russia's political turmoil after President Boris Yeltsin dissolved a rebellious parliament was the main reason for the fall.

The rouble traded at 1.173 to the dollar Tuesday just below Monday's rate of 1.168 and well below its January level of about 415 roubles per dollar.

Daimler-Benz begins trading in New York

NEW YORK (R) — Daimler-Benz, the German industrial giant that last week said it would start building vehicles at a plant in Alabama, began trading its shares on the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday in a major move for the car-maker and the U.S. stock market.

Daimler Chairman Edzard Reuter bought the first 100 of his company's American depositary receipts at \$47 each as Daimler-Benz became the first German company to have its stock listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Before trading began, Mr. Reuter turned to Gerhard Liener, the company's chief

financial officer, and asked: "Can we afford to buy a little more than one share?"

Mr. Liener replied, "maybe two," amid the commotion on the floor of the exchange.

Describing the occasion as a once-in-a-lifetime event, Mr. Liener added: "It now places us in a position where we can consider ourselves global players."

A crowd of floor traders gathered in front of the trading post on the exchange floor as TV cameras recorded the event and a large yellow placard displayed the "Dai" symbol of the securities.

Other Daimler-Benz officials watched from a gallery

overlooking the floor. Daimler's debut on the U.S. exchange marks a watershed for the exchange and reflects a major attitude change at the company.

For exchange chairman William Donaldson, the debut of the German company is a personal hard-won victory to boost foreign stock listings, which are expected in 1993 to nearly double last year's total.

It was only after a compromise with U.S. regulators on financial disclosure issues that Daimler agreed to list.

German firms, which have different accounting methods than U.S. companies, have traditionally been wary of being

listed in the United States because of the more stringent disclosure requirements here. Daimler will now provide more details, including a breakdown of operating, investing and financing cash flows.

The listing will allow U.S. pension and mutual funds to invest in the maker of Mercedes-Benz cars.

Mr. Liener said earlier he expected 10 per cent of Daimler's shares to be in U.S. hands. He told German television the number of shares held by U.S. investors could rise to 10 per cent from three per cent within one year of the listing on the New York Stock Exchange.

Mexico to boost economy with tax cuts, wage gains

MEXICO CITY (R) — President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has announced a sweeping package of tax cuts and wage increases aimed at boosting Mexico's economy as the country moves into an election year.

The economic measures, which cut both income and business taxes and double the number of low wage earners who will pay no tax at all, were outlined in the 1994 pact for stability, competitiveness and employment, an annual agreement drafted by government, business and labour leaders.

Despite the expected stimulus to the economy, the pact also set a 1994 inflation target of only five per cent, or half the target that was formulated in the 1993 agreement.

A senior government official told reporters the fight against inflation, which has been a top priority of the Salinas administration, would be aided by business' agreement to pass along its savings in the form of a 1.5 per cent reduction in prices for goods and services.

The government said Mexican minimum wages, which are as low as \$4 a day in some economic sectors, would be increased at a rate linked to 1994's expected inflation and labour productivity gains.

Last month, Mr. Salinas, in response to U.S. critics of the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement, promised to put in the productivity

clause to speed the pace of Mexican wage increases.

Known as NAFTA, the pact is designed to create a single free trade zone of 360 million U.S., Canadian and Mexican consumers.

In recent years, wage gains were limited to the inflation rate as Mexico struggled to bring costs under control. For workers earning the minimum wage, tax cuts will add an average of 9.5 per cent to their income, the government said.

Along with tax cuts, Mr. Salinas said the government would reduce the cost of such things as fuel and electricity to help both consumers and the international competitive position of Mexican industry.

"This pact is the most generous of all," the president said in a speech to the same leaders who helped draw up the accord.

It was also the final pact to be formulated during the Salinas administration.

"With this pact, the economic policy of my administration is consolidated — stability of prices, economic growth, public finances in equilibrium, real salary growth, commercial liberalisation," Mr. Salinas said.

The first pact was formulated in 1987 during the administration of President Miguel de la Madrid in an attempt to get inflation under control.

The stimulus package had widely been expected, as

labour and business leaders had stepped up pressure on the government to apply its fiscal savings to boost economic activity from current sluggish levels. Economists had predicted a stimulus programme would be announced months ahead of the August 1994 presidential election to help the ruling PRI candidate.

One analyst told Reuters it appeared the government was abandoning its fight against inflation for political expediency.

The Mexican official, who asked not to be identified, said that economic growth in 1994 was expected to be in the range of three to 3.5 per cent.

The economic programme will be financed largely by the government's budget surplus, which Mr. Salinas said would enable him to submit to congress a balanced budget in 1994.

Business taxes would be cut to 34 per cent from 35 per cent, and companies also would receive benefits in the form of accelerated depreciation for certain items, including vehicles and investments in anti-pollution equipment.

Lower income taxes "will begin the recuperation of acquisitive power in the minimum salary (range)," the government said, and the number of low wage earners who will not have to pay taxes at all will double from 1.3 million to 2.6 million.

Kuwait cuts oil output

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Tuesday it was cutting oil output in line with new OPEC production limits and was confident the group's restraint would raise sagging prices.

Oil Minister Ali Ahmad Al Baghli said he was very confident prices that have fallen 20 per cent this year would rise by \$3 a barrel in response to an OPEC pact agreed in Geneva last month.

"We are very confident that there is a political will behind the accord," Sheikh Baghli told Reuters in a telephone interview. "We are positive that all will abide by their quotas and that prices will rise by about \$3 a barrel."

The accord agreed on Sept. 29 set an overall 24.52 million b/d limit for the producer group for the next six months, up from 23.58 million b/d in the third quarter.

It allocated 2.0 million barrels per day b/d to Kuwait, down from its 2.16 million b/d September output, despite a determined bid by Sheikh Baghli to win a quota of 2.16 million b/d.

Sheikh Baghli asked oil industry officials Tuesday to cut crude output to 2.0 million b/d, returning Kuwait to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) quota system for the first time since June.

Kuwait opted out of the system in June after being accorded a notional 1.6 million b/d quota for the third quarter.

Bildt: EC membership will resuscitate Swedish economy

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The only way to lift Sweden out of its economic misery is to initiate European cooperation through EC membership negotiations, Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt said in a speech opening parliament Tuesday.

Sweden is presently talking with the EC's Belgian presidency and the European Commission with the goal of making Sweden a full member of the European Community (EC) by Jan. 1, 1995.

"Sweden's economic policy during the 1990's must be aimed at restoring the national economic balance," Mr. Bildt said, and added that the road to enduring growth and full employment in Sweden is long.

Unemployment is a primary issue in Sweden right now. In August, there were 411,000 jobless workers. That figure represents 9.4 per cent of the work force, one of the highest levels of unemployment since the 1930s.

"Only through hard work, savings and sound long-term

investments can unemployment be fought and welfare be secured," he said. "No task is more important than creating job possibilities through a growing economy," the prime minister underlined.

Breaking the economic stagnation and reestablishing Sweden as a growth and trade country with a strong and flourishing economy will help turn the country around, he emphasised.

Mr. Bildt pointed out several improvements in the Swedish economy — a rise in exports and industrial production, an increase in the number of available jobs and a decrease in redundancy notices. Companies' profitability has also improved, he noted.

But despite the positive signs, there is no general upswing in sight for Sweden's economy just yet, according to Mr. Bildt.

The most important task for Swedish finance policy right now is to create opportunities for continued rate cuts.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY OCTOBER 7, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a fine day for accepting and utilising to great advantage an unexpected opportunity. Changing coming into effect will require considerable tact and diplomacy in handling.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Take some time out now to get some much needed information, after which you will be able to go directly to one in authority to get support for it.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can look for new outlets by which you can express your basic financial doubt and be able to do so to your development by such a condition.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Now you have all kinds of capabilities where handling business experts and personnel are concerned so use this ability to further your aims.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A public or civic interest can be your means by making your presence more vital where you reside so be alert to such an opportunity.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A perfect day for you to take a good look at your various activities and to so schedule them, each in its right time, so life will be easier for you in the future.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A chance is now powerfully yours to engage in some

interests which appeal to you very much and you also can have a very pleasant time with companions.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are a devoted family and home person and you have the chance today to put that devotion into motion and get your residence exactly as you wish it to be.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You like to have everything running smoothly and now whatever your daily outside interests happen to be you can make them work in your behalf.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your day to get into whatever you wish to do that can be the means for your having a greater abundance of the practical things that you want.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Look around you at your personal life and you can see ways by which it can be made more to your satisfaction and put the plan in motion right away.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Forget those dreary ideas and goals and get into the practical aspects of whatever opportunities are yours and their soon will pay off for you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are usually a very private person but this is the day for you to cast off that reticence and be gregarious and meet with friends, acquaintances.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY OCTOBER 8, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Cooperate today and this evening with the most original striking and unusual personalities with whom you have any dealings or social contact as you keep the spiritual in focus.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You may get a late start on outside activities today but soon conditions lift and you are able to gain the good will of those in powerful positions.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever you have in mind about an interesting new venture requires early analysis after which you will be able to forge ahead into new projects.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is the day for you to have a leisurely breakfast and then to look into whatever you can do to make your life on a more foundation of worth.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A tired feeling early soon leaves and you find you are able to have some serious conversations with those able to advance your ambitions.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Events at work don't seem to fit into place until the day advances so don't be upset but keep in action and you get much of value accomplished.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You now find it possible

to organise and to arrange conditions in the future so you have many happy moments at the amusements that most appeal.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You find you don't want to get away from the home and there are a number of very desirable matters that you can put into motion there at this time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't let yourself early feel that you lack the assets you need and you soon find you see ways to increase what you have in a larger extent.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think about what you can do to get the one you love the most to arrange your joint time together so it is productive of more happiness, benefit.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can get a late start this morning but then you find you have the desire and the vitality to go after the specific conditions you want the most.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Think of the many contacts you have that are able to join with you in the mutual enterprises that are compatible with you and with them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you have in mind concerning your worldly position can be made a workable reality by the down to earth effort you put into such ideas.

African development conference ends without aid pledges

TOKYO (AFP) — A two-day international conference on African development ended in Tokyo Wednesday with pledges of further international efforts but no specific promises of new aid.

The meeting, attended by 48 African countries, 13 donor nations and eight international organisations, vowed to give "further impetus" to "far-reaching political and economic reforms" in Africa.

In a lengthy declaration, Africa's "development partners" pledged to "make all efforts to enhance development assistance to Africa, despite current global economic difficulties."

The document also called on the Paris Club of major creditor nations to continue reviewing debt relief, taking into account "the difficulties heavily indebted African countries are now facing."

At the 1991 U.N. General Assembly, Japan offered to host the conference cosponsored by the world body and an informal forum on economic cooperation, the Global Coalition for Africa (GCA).

Organisers had made clear the conference would not be a "pledging session" and some observers considered Tokyo

agreed to host the conference to help garner international support for its bid to become a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

"Although there have been no specific commitments, I believe it is a major step forward that all participants have agreed to endorse the Group of Seven (G-7) position to make more efforts on debt relief for low-income, heavily indebted countries," Botswana President Ketumile Masire said.

The G-7 comprises Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Speaking at a press conference as GCA chairman, President Masire said the meeting would help keep "our continent on the world development agenda."

He said "the Japanese now realise that we are not just a backyard of America and Europe but a continent in our own right. We need help as well as other people elsewhere in the world."

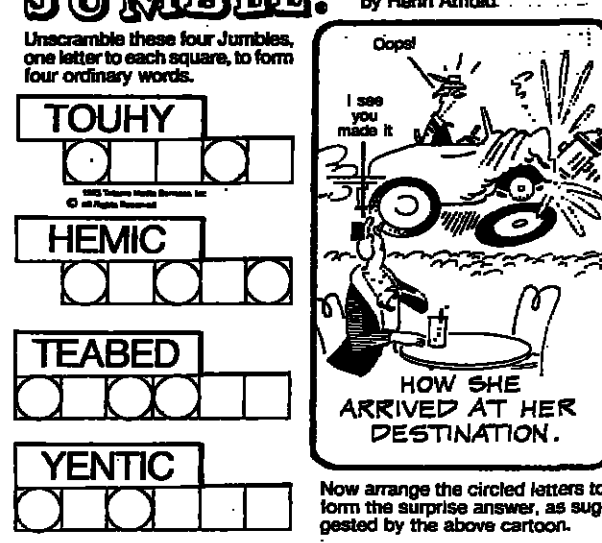
Japan's chief delegate Yasushi Kurokuchi admitted Japan was a relative "newcomer" in the field of international assistance to Africa when it offered to host the conference.

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



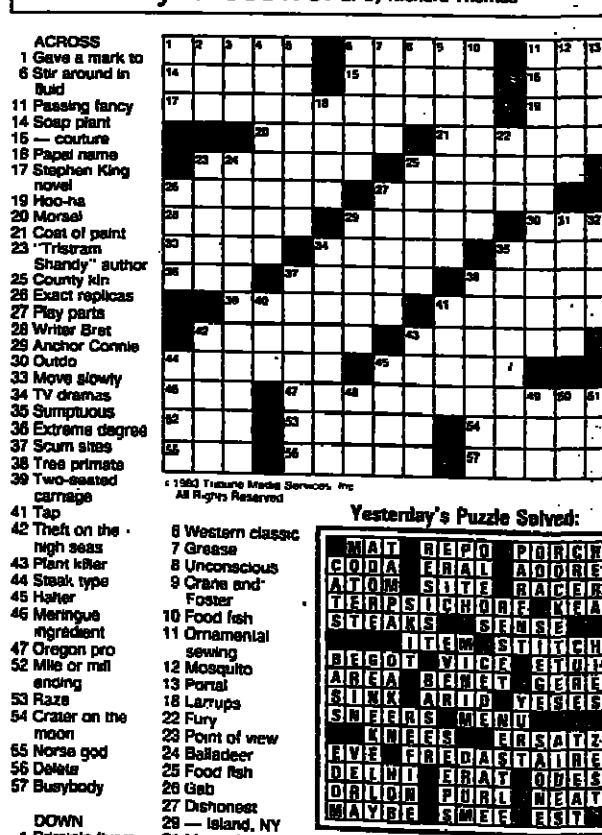
"If you and my doctor are both watching my cholesterol, why do I have to watch it too?"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold

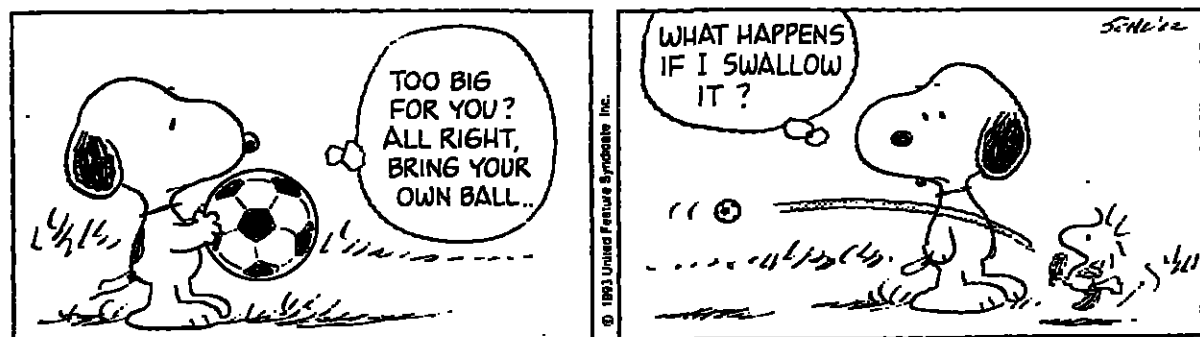


Answer here: CABIN BRAND GAMBIT BEDBUG
Yesterday's Jumbles: CABIN BRAND GAMBIT BEDBUG
Answer: What were they playing at the purse counter?—GRAB BAG

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas



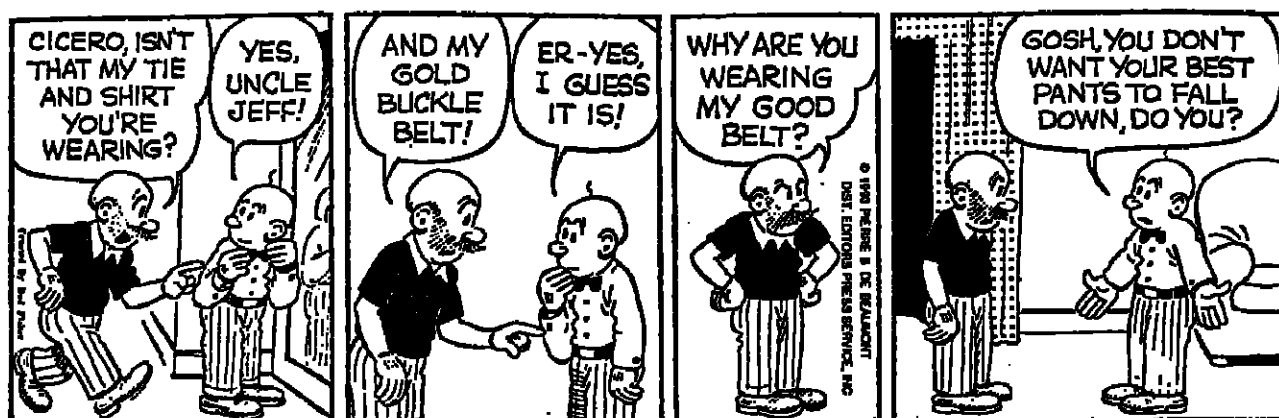
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Handwritten signature: Andy Capp

2,500 Bosnian army troops reportedly defect in Bihac

SARAJEVO (AP) — The beleaguered Bosnian government forces Wednesday won a tactical victory in the northern enclave of Bihac and ethnic Croats around the southwestern city of Mostar.

Serb-Muslim front lines remained relatively quiet.

In Bihac, Muslim-led government forces came to grips with the reported defection of about 2,500 soldiers to the side of a renegade local leader.

The defections, reported Tuesday by U.N. officials, would deal a serious blow to President Alija Izetbegovic as he tries to contain a revolt that saps his thinly stretched military resources against the Serbs and Croats.

U.N. officials said some fighting resumed Wednesday in the northwestern area. Bosnian radio reported rebel troops shooting at government forces in the village of Jovovica, south of the city of Bihac.

In Velika Kladusa, a rebel stronghold, snipers were targeting loyalist soldiers.

On Tuesday, Bosnian army officials said Mr. Izetbegovic met in Sarajevo with commanders from the Cazina area in Bihac, who pledged loyalty to his government.

As they met, supporters of Bihac leader Fikret Abdic clashed with Mr. Izetbegovic loyalists in an area under government control. Fighting was localised and light, then eased, said U.N. spokesman Idesbald

Van Biesebroeck. Government soldiers have skirmished with Mr. Abdic's fighters since the rebel leader declared the area autonomous last week, further fragmenting the war-torn republic.

The Bihac pocket, named for its major town, is tucked in northwestern Bosnia on the border with Croatia, and officials say 250,000 to 300,000 people live there, many of them refugees.

Mr. Abdic is credited with using his prewar business contacts with Serbs and Croats to spare the area most of the fighting that has devastated the rest of Bosnia.

Most local residents believe they would be better off as an autonomous region trading with neighbouring Croats and the Serbs.

Under an international peace plan rejected by the parliament last week, Bosnia would be divided into Serb, Croat and Muslim states. The 860-square-mile (1,380-square-kilometre) Bihac area would be part of the Muslim state.

Mr. Van Biesebroeck, speaking in Sarajevo, also reported increased the lining of the eastern Muslim sector of Mostar, a city sought by Bosnian Croats as the capital of their new republic.

Sarajevo, the capital, was spared major fighting Wednesday. But sirens sounded a general alarm after increased sniper activity in the city centre, and some street were de-

serted. In central Bosnia, Sarajevo Radio reported Croat forces had wired Muslim prisoners with explosives Tuesday and used them as human shields to assault government positions.

There was no independent confirmation of that by Wednesday.

Bosnia's civil war broke out 18 months ago when ethnic Serbs rebelled after Muslims and Croats voted to secede from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia. More than 200,000 have been killed or are missing, and 2 million more have been forced from their homes by the fighting.

But much of the recent fighting has pitted Croats against Muslims, as the former allies vie for land unclaimed by the Serbs.

Meanwhile, Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug said the Muslim-controlled region of Tuzla in northern Bosnia might declare itself autonomous. The agency was quoting Serb sources who are however hostile to Bosnian Muslims.

Local authorities in Tuzla were not immediately available to comment on the report.

According to a document quoted by the agency, the region is considering following the example of Bihac.

The document, brought from Tuzla by Serbs, is now in the hands of officers of the First Division of the Bosnian Serb Army in Banja Luka.

The army quoted the document as saying: "Taking into account the situation in our region, Tuzla autonomy within Yugoslavia would bring us peace and prosperity."

"Let's accept a sensible solution, let's accept the reconciliation between Serbs, Muslims and Croats that autonomy would bring," the army reported the document as saying.

Meanwhile, in Frankfurt, Germany, Bosnia's Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic described Wednesday the separatist forces in Bihac as a "communist relic" trying to survive.

Speaking at a press conference during a stopover en route to Zagreb, where he will meet his Croatian counterpart, Mr. Silajdzic said his country had been condemned to death by the international community.

Mr. Izetbegovic left Sarajevo Wednesday to address the United Nations General Assembly, Bosnian radio reported.

When the Bosnian parliament effectively rejected the latest Geneva peace plan last week, it also said Mr. Izetbegovic would go to New York to explain the decision.

The parliament said it accepted the plan, which would divide Bosnia into three ethnic states, on condition that "land seized by force" was returned.

Serbs and Croats said they would make no more territorial concessions to the Muslims.



MANDELA GETS AWARD: African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela (left) is hugged by Portuguese President Mario Soares after being awarded the order 'Great Cross Of Freedom' Tuesday (AFP photo)

Georgian crisis deepens as rebels mount attacks

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — Georgia plunged deeper into crisis Tuesday with a rebellion spreading in the west, an attempt to kill a local leader in the south and curfews imposed in the capital and the devastated city of Sukhumi.

Two people were killed when rebels seeking to depose Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze in favour of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia hit government targets in the west of the country.

A soldier died when the rebels, who have seized nine towns and districts in Mr. Gamsakhurdia's western ethnic homeland of Mingrelia, hit security posts near the Black Sea town of Poti, Georgian radio reported, quoting the Interior Ministry.

To the north, in the town of Samtredia, one civilian was killed when the rebels attacked security posts, the radio said. Poti, Georgia's main port, fell to pro-Gamsakhurdia rebels last month, disrupting food supplies to the capital Tbilisi from Mingrelia, the

breadbasket of the former Soviet republic.

Samtredia is a key rail junction which, if taken, would cut off Tbilisi's supplies from Black Sea ports.

Faced with soaring crime and street battles, Abkhaz authorities imposed an overnight curfew in Sukhumi from Tuesday. Russia's ITAR-TASS News Agency said. The port city and regional capital was heavily damaged when the rebels seized it from Georgian government forces last month.

A curfew also went into effect in Tbilisi Tuesday, imposed in a decree by Mr. Shevardnadze, Georgian radio said. The capital has faced its own law and order problems as the country disintegrates.

In the southern ethnic region of Abkhazia, a semi-autonomous republic, the powerful former Communist mayor of Batumi, Aslan Abashidze, escaped an assassination attempt and Georgia's Iprinda News Agency blamed Gamsakhurdia gunmen for the attack.

Khmer Rouge destroy 2 bridges in Cambodia

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (AFP) — Suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas blew up two bridges along a strategically important road in northwestern Cambodia, a Cambodian government officer stationed on the border here said Wednesday.

The bridges were destroyed on Route 5 between Cambodia's second city of Battambang and the nearby provincial capital of Sisophon.

Route 5 is the main communication link with Thailand and the destruction of the bridges has disrupted trade with the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet, the officer said.

The Cambodian officer said he suspected the sabotage was the responsibility of Khmer Rouge guerrillas who were hoping to create political confusion.

It would take about one week to repair the damaged bridges, he said.

The Cambodian government warned Wednesday that round-table talks alone would be insufficient to deal with the Khmer Rouge, and more military offensives against the ultra-nationalist guerrillas could be expected.

"To deal with the Khmer Rouge, as a Communist organisation, we have to... use diplomatic means, military means, and psychological operations trying to get defections," Deputy Information Minister Ek Serreay said.

"By talking alone, or by diplomacy alone, it wouldn't work," he said. "This is the experience we have learned."

The Khmer Rouge have been busy moving supplies from the border with Thailand to the interior of the country in preparation for the upcoming dry season, when the government conventional forces traditionally have launched offensives against the Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

Missing 5-year-old girl found behind looking glass

LAKE WORTH, Florida (AFP) — A frantic two-hour police search for a missing five-year-old girl ended when the child turned up sleeping behind a looking glass. But unlike her counterpart in Alice in Wonderland, Fawn Davis did not blame white rabbits or walrus. Palm Beach Sheriff's spokeswoman Teri Barbera said 15 patrol cars, a canine unit and a helicopter were mobilised in the search. The officers apparently overlooked the girl, who was rolled up in a ball behind a mirror in the laundry room, then emerged from her nap Monday. "I didn't know whether to bug her or beat her up," said the girl's mother, Denise Weimann.

Barbara Cartland launches a 'Romance Club'

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's doyenne of the romantic novel, 92-year-old Barbara Cartland, has launched the "Romance Club," designed to bring "romance and beauty" into members' lives. Ms. Cartland, who has penned some 575 romantic novels and is Princess Diana's step-grandmother, explained: "I decided to form my Romance Club as I do believe that we are starting the age of love and that morality, compassion, sympathy and love are vital to a successful relationship." The bestselling writer added: "So many people have told me that they enjoy reading my books tremendously and how much happiness I have brought into their marriages that I wondered how I could be even more helpful to those who need me." Members will receive — for an undisclosed joining fee — two Cartland novels, a tape recording of a third romantic novel, a photo of the writer and a special welcome letter. Romance Club members will also receive regular mailings with special offers on Cartland books and hints on keeping love and romance in those special relationships.

Mystery woman fights Canadian deportation

VANCOUVER (R) — A woman suffering from total amnesia after being mugged two months ago said Tuesday she would fight Canadian efforts to deport her. The woman, who continues to go by the name Jane Doe given to her by hospital staff, said she is willing to leave but wants to do so under her own power. "I have no idea how or why I got here," she said. "I guess I have friends and husband, but I can't make any connection. Nothing is familiar," she told Reuters. She was found unconscious in the washroom of a Vancouver hotel in early August after being mugged. Police had no clues to her identity until her wallet was later found. They believe she is Brande Cheval, 29, and say her last address was in Tampa, Florida. Canadian immigration officials have ordered she be deported to the United States because she has no money to pay her hospital bills, her lawyer said. An order for her to be deported Tuesday was extended until Friday. She is seeking to have the deportation order reviewed.

Two-thirds of Antarctic ozone layer destroyed

LONDON (R) — British scientists said that the hole in the ozone layer over the Antarctic is the deepest ever with two-thirds of the protective shield destroyed. "This is a massive depletion," said Jonathan Shanklin of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). "We're right on the minimum now and we were not expecting it to be so low," he told Reuters. The Antarctic ozone layer, which varies in size from season to season, usually reaches its thinnest level in the first half of October but this year the lowest level was already surpassed by the end of September. The lower the level of ozone the deeper the hole. The decline in the ozone layer, which absorbs most of the sun's ultraviolet radiation, increases the risk of skin cancer in humans and some scientists believe it could also harm crop yields and sea life. "For every one per cent decrease in the ozone layer there is a two per cent increase in skin cancer," said Mr. Shanklin, adding that there has already been a 67 per cent decrease in the ozone over the Antarctic. BAS scientists at two research stations in the Antarctic have measured the Antarctic ozone levels since 1957.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tremors rock Indian quake zone

LATUR, India (AFP) — Mild tremors rocked a reas of quake-ravaged western India before dawn Wednesday, causing no damage but sparking panic, officials said. The tremors, at 2:50 a.m. (2120 GMT), jolted the small towns of Latour and Khatlari and nearby villages where a powerful pre-dawn quake on Sept. 30 killed an estimated 30,000 people. But there was no loss of life or damage Wednesday, officials said. The Press Trust of India said the tremors were of "slight intensity" and the epicentre lay about 460 kilometres east of Bombay, capital of Maharashtra state.

Karabakh ceasefire extended

YEREVAN (R) — Armenia said that Azerbaijan "and Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh had agreed to extend a temporary truce in the disputed territory for another month until Nov. 5. An Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesman in the capital Yerevan said the agreement was reached between senior Azeri and Nagorno-Karabakh officials in Moscow. An Azeri embassy spokesman in Moscow confirmed the accord. An earlier temporary ceasefire expired Tuesday.

Campbell takes on Quebec separatists

TROIS-RIVIERES, Quebec (R) — Prime Minister Kim Campbell attacked Quebec separatists on their own turf Tuesday, seeking to reverse dwindling support for the nationally ruling conservatives in the French-speaking province ahead of this month's federal elections. But she offered little hope of jobs in this industrial city on the St. Lawrence River once known as the world's pulp and paper capital and today hit by severe unemployment. Ms. Campbell accused the Bloc Quebecois party, which is threatening to unseat the Conservatives across the province on a surge of separatist sentiment, of seeking to sabotage Canada's parliament and break up the nation. She warned Quebecers that the separatist party led by Lucien Bouchard, a former ambassador to France, was a false hope that would hurt their economic interests by putting them in the opposition and reducing their influence in Ottawa.

Parcel bomb sent to Irish minister

BELFAST (AFP) — A parcel bomb addressed to Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring was discovered Tuesday by the postal service in Northern Ireland and blown up in a controlled explosion, police said. Army bomb experts exploded the device at the central post office in Belfast, they said. It was suspected that a loyalist — or pro-British — paramilitary group operating in the province had sent the bomb. The parcel had been addressed to Spring via the Anglo-Irish Secretariat in Belfast, which was set up to coordinate an agreement on Northern Ireland signed between the two countries.

King Juan Carlos condemns ETA

BILBAO, Spain (AFP) — King Juan Carlos condemned violence by the Basque separatist group (ETA) during a visit to the Basque country where protesters demanding independence from Spain dogged his short tour. The visit by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia coincided with the start of the fourth month in captivity of businessman Julio Iglesias Zamora, kidnapped by ETA separatists who are demanding a ransom of 200 million pesetas (\$1.4 million). "Businessmen... and Basque society in general are suffering from extortion and the threat of terrorism, which has been illustrated dramatically in the last three months," the King told business leaders in Bilbao. "I am sure that those who follow a course of violence will not be able to destroy Basque society," he said.

Scuffles erupt during Hani murder trial

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Scuffles broke out as police Wednesday evicted four men from the Johannesburg Supreme Court during a break in the trial of three right-wingers accused of murdering South African black leader Chris Hani. The evicted men — two whites and two blacks — had engaged in a shouting match, yelling "shut up!" at each other, moments after Judge Frikke Eloff left the court for a mid-morning tea break. Monday's session too had been marred by angry exchanges between white supporters of the defendants and black friends and colleagues of Mr. Hani, with Judge Eloff threatening to clear the listeners' gallery. There was scuffling in the courthouse corridors Wednesday, with one of the black men shouting "don't push me!" as police moved in to expel him and three others and demand they return the cards giving them access to the courtroom. On trial for the April 10 assassination of Hani, a leader of the African National Congress (ANC) and secretary-general, are the South African Communist Party (SACP), are alleged trigger-man Janusz Walusz, 38, Conservative Party ex-MP Clive Derby-Lewis, 57, and his wife Gaye, 54, a former Catholic nun.

Nobel Prize season kicks off Thursday

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The 1993 Nobel Prize season kicks off here Thursday with the announcement of the winner of the Literature Prize followed next week by the winners in other categories including the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize.

Among the top contenders for the Literature Prize is Chinese author Bei Dao, Hugo Claus of Belgium, Jean-Kees of Estonia, Kenzaburo Oe of Japan and...

Several women have also been mentioned as possible winners including American author Toni Morrison, British writer Doris Lessing, France's Marguerite Duras, and Ana Maria Mateute Asejo of Spain. Last year's winner was West Indian poet and playwright Derek Walcott.

On Monday Sweden's Royal Academy of Sciences will announce the name of the winner — or winners — of the prize in medicine or physiology followed Tuesday and Wednesday by winners in the economics, physics and chemistry categories.

This year's peace laureate will be announced Friday next week in Oslo. Well informed sources said a strong contender for the prize is the Salvation

Army, the Christian relief organisation which has been nominated in previous years. Newspapers here have also mentioned the French humanitarian organisations Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) and Medecins Du Monde (Doctors of the World) as well as the International Olympic Committee and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Some of the individuals mentioned include black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela and South African President Frederik De Klerk, French President Francois Mitterrand, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Czech President Vaclav Havel and peace mediators for Yugoslavia Lord Owen of the European Community and Cyrus Vance of the United Nations.

One less well-known personality also cited is Shulamith Katznelson, an Israeli language professor whose name has been submitted for several years for her efforts at promoting peace between Palestinians and Jews.

A total of 110 candidates — 88 individuals and 22 organisations — were on the official but secret list considered by the Peace Prize Committee in Oslo.

Asia disappointed, angry over Chinese nuclear test

HONG KONG (Agencies) — Asian countries reacted with anger and disappointment Wednesday at China's underground detonation of a nuclear device, seen as a blow to hopes for a comprehensive nuclear test ban.

China carried out its 39th nuclear test Tuesday at the Lop Nor Desert site in defiance of appeals from U.S. President Bill Clinton who in July called for a 15-month moratorium on tests. Other nuclear powers Britain, France and Russia called the test regrettable and a setback to the moratorium.

Western experts said the Chinese device was probably 70 to 80 kilotons and aimed at developing a multiple warhead missile and maintaining China's tactical edge in Asia.

New Zealand, which has been in the forefront of regional opposition to nuclear tests, notably by France at its Mururoa Atoll site, was the first Wednesday to lodge a strong protest with China.

Foreign Minister Don McKinnon summoned Chinese Ambassador Li Jinua and told him the test showed a "blatant disregard for the views of the international community". New Zealand was "very angry" about the "serious undermining" of world expectations for an end to nuclear testing.

As a member of the United Nations Security Council, China should show restraint and leadership, Mr. McKinnon said, adding that the latest test ran the risk of contributing to the dangers of proliferation.

In Seoul, where anxiety about the suspected nuclear

ambitions of North Korea runs deep, a Foreign Ministry statement said the test was "regrettable" but hoped it would not derail international efforts for a complete test ban treaty.

An analyst with the state-run Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security said Seoul feared the test would hurt efforts to pressure Pyongyang over its nuclear programme.

"Close cooperation between Washington and Peking is important in preventing the North from producing weapons," said Yun Duk-Min, Pyongyang would now be less likely to heed demands from either capital.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said in a statement Wednesday that it was "disturbing" that Peking had chosen to ignore the urgings of much of the world and carry out the test.

It was a "particularly disappointing" development after more than a year when no country had conducted a test and when the world was moving towards negotiation of a comprehensive test ban treaty, he added.

Japan, which for 30 years has maintained a so-called "three-point non-nuclear policy" against production, possession and introduction of nuclear weapons in its territory, condemned the test as "deeply regrettable" but echoed the general hope that it would not hinder progress towards an overall test ban, something the Chinese have said they support.

In Hong Kong, Robert Broadfoot, a regional analyst with the political and economic risk consultancy, said the test

was China's way of saying it would not be intimidated by the United States.

He said the main worry for the Asian region would come if China actively pursued an atomic weapons programme, although that in turn could lead to a freeze of Western technology transfers.

The South Pacific Forum, which links Australia and New Zealand together with South Pacific island states, issued a statement describing China's action as "difficult to understand in light of its professed understanding of the region's position on nuclear testing."

In 1985 the Forum, of which China is a dialogue partner, adopted a treaty for a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific.

India, which fought a brief border war with China in 1962, "noted" the test.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said "our position on a nuclear free world is well known." India was for "general and complete (nuclear) disarmament."

India exploded its own nuclear device in 1974 but has refused to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, calling it discriminatory.

Canada criticised China Tuesday for carrying out a nuclear test.

Expressing his disappointment, Canada's External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty said: "There is an international consensus that testing should be put behind us with other relics of the cold war."

"It would be tragic if the Chinese test led to an unravelling of that consensus."

U.S. President Bill Clinton has directed the Department of

Energy to prepare for a possible resumption of nuclear testing following China's underground nuclear test Tuesday, the White House said.

The White House statement said the president had directed the department to "take such actions as are necessary to put the United States in a position to be able to conduct nuclear tests next year" if necessary.

It said the United States "deeply regrets" China's action, adding: "We urge China to refrain from further nuclear tests and to join the other nuclear powers in a global moratorium."

Mr. Clinton earlier this year extended a U.S. moratorium on nuclear testing, but said that might not hold if another country resumed tests.

Japan said Wednesday it was concerned that President Clinton had ordered preparations for a possible resumption of U.S. nuclear tests.

Kyodo News Service quoted the chief Japanese government spokesman Masayoshi Takemura as telling reporters: "We will take the same attitude with the United States that we took with China."

Britain's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has said his government is discussing with Washington whether to resume nuclear tests.

Meanwhile, diplomat in Peking said China will never bow to outside pressure to give up its nuclear weaponry, despite recriminations following its latest nuclear test.

In a statement published shortly after Tuesday's underground test, the Peking government said that its development of a nuclear arsenal was

to put that right." Pointing to what he termed "a significant use of this right" by experienced criminals, including terrorists, he said prosecutors would henceforth be allowed to tell juries they may draw "a proper inference" from the accused's refusal to answer police questions, or to testify.

The Conservatives' conference, aiming to focus on party unity after a year of internecine squabbling, was meanwhile clouded for the second day by press disclosures of unflattering remarks by former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher about her successor, John Major.

Having beaten back a court gag order late Tuesday, the Daily Mirror published a second instalment from what it claimed to be Mrs. Thatcher's memoirs, in which she paints a questionable portrait of Mr. Major when he was her chancellor of the exchequer.

"Intellectually, he drifted with the tide," she said of Mr. Major in the Mirror account. "It seemed strange to me that he did not feel more at home with tackling the difficult issues he faced at treasury."

At one point, she says, "we had to bring others who were more at ease with large ideas and strategies into the discussion."

Instead China called on the other nuclear powers, Britain, France, Russia and the United States, "to conclude an international convention prohibiting first use of nuclear weapons and the threat of their use against non-nuclear states."

A Western diplomat here said the Chinese appeal would be "unacceptable" to the other nuclear powers.

"This is the usual litany from Peking, but these proposals are unacceptable to the other atomic powers because they amount to the abandoning of nuclear deterrent, whose balance of terror has provided the foundation for peace for the past 50 years," the diplomat said.

In addition Chinese authorities also link the signing of a nuclear test ban treaty to the complete eradication of nuclear arsenals.

"China well knows that this latter proposal is unrealistic, but sticks to it strongly because it is China's only way to avoid being completely left behind by the other nuclear powers," the diplomat said.

France said Wednesday it would take all necessary steps to maintain and develop a modern nuclear deterrent but stopped short of announcing a resumption of underground weapons tests in the South Pacific.

A statement issued by President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur in response to China's nuclear test Tuesday, which broke an informal world moratorium, said France had a credible, sufficient deterrent at present.

World Cup qualifiers

Iraqis ready to fight to death

MANAMA (AFP) — Iraq's football squad are ready to fight to the death this month in a bid to win a place in next year's World Cup finals in the United States.

The Iraqis, who arrived in Doha Wednesday, were the first of six national teams to fly in to Qatar for the two-week Asian qualifiers which start Friday week.

They will be followed by Saudi Arabia, Iran, Japan, South Korea and North Korea.

The man from Baghdad will not be starting out as favourites for one of two places in the finals, but they were given a clear ultimatum from the official press Sunday.

"Fight to the death and come back to Iraq with a passport for the country to Uncle Sam," said the Al-Baath Arrivadi, a sports daily backing the ruling Baath Party.

"The Iraqi people will accept nothing less than victory."

The government's own paper, Al-Jumhuriya, called on the players to "fight, for the nation, with the spirit of soldiers."

"When you play, you must bear in mind the children, the women and the old who are suffering the effects of the unjust embargo."

The embargo was slapped on Iraq by the U.N. Security Council in the wake of its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Yet these are only the latest



Iraqi manager Adnan Derjal (centre) instructing his players during practice in the first round of the Asian Group A qualifiers in Irbid, May 21. At left is Iraqi star Ahmad Radi (file photo).

Irbid, May 21. At left is Iraqi star Ahmad Radi (file photo).

demand on footballers by the regime in Baghdad.

On June, after the first round of qualifiers, the press exhorted them to "continue the struggle," stressing that Iraq's main opponent will be its Gulf war adversary Saudi Arabia.

"The Iraqis will celebrate their victory over Saudi Arabia," columnists predicted, "their implacable enemy, who must be crushed before a television audience of millions

around the world."

Meanwhile, the Saudis are quietly optimistic about their chances of reaching the World Cup finals for the first time.

First of all, they believe the climate will be on their side. The weather was a factor cited in their failure to retain the Asian Nations Cup at Hiroshima in October 1992, which was won by Japan.

The Saudis also feel they will be playing at home, to some extent, with Qatar being a fel-

low member of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and there is also superstition, which says that Qatar is a lucky venue for the Saudi team.

The Gulf monarchy won the Asian Nations Cup in Doha in 1988 and one of its sides, Ash-Shabab, added the Arab Champions Cup there in 1992.

However, the Iraqis also feel they will be welcomed in Qatar, as their hosts were the first to restore diplomatic and sporting ties with Baghdad, much to the dismay of Kuwait.

Larry Johnson signs historic \$84m deal

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AFP) — Larry Johnson signed the biggest deal in National Basketball Association history Tuesday, believed to be worth \$84 million over 12 years.

The Hornets would not confirm the precise value of the contract, but team owner George Shinn said: "My whole body quivered. If you would have told me a few years ago that I would sign somebody for that much, you would have had to put me in the hospital."

Patrick Ewing of the New York Knicks has the NBA's highest annual average salary at \$9.4 million over the next two years.

Johnson, the 1992 rookie of the year and an All-Star forward last season, averaged 22.1 points per game with 10.5 rebounds.

Highest salary packages for athletes in the U.S.

Highest U.S. salary packages by total guaranteed value, not including possible performance bonuses. Last does not make distinction for money deferred without interest.

Baseball: Barry Bonds, San Francisco Giants, six years, \$43.75 million.

Basketball: Larry Johnson, Charlotte Hornets, 12 years, \$84 million.

Football: Bernie Kosar, Cleveland Browns, seven years, \$27 million.

Hockey: Mario Lemieux, Pittsburgh Penguins, seven years, \$42 million.

Chess battle to resume in Jakarta

JAKARTA, Indonesia (Agencies) — Former titlist Anatoly Karpov of Russia, leading 7-5 in games, will resume his world championship battle against Jan Timman of the Netherlands in Jakarta this month, the World Chess Federation said Wednesday.

The remaining 12 games will be played at Jakarta's Hilton International Hotel starting Oct. 17, said Florencio Campomanes, president of the federation, known as FIDE. The first 12 were played in the Netherlands.

The winner is to receive 625,000 Swiss francs (\$440,000) from the total purse of 1 million francs (\$705,000).

Campomanes said the series was expected to run until Nov. 17.

Karpov and Timman are playing for the world title after FIDE stripped world champion Garry Kasparov of his title.

Michael Jordan announces retirement

DEERFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Michael Jordan announced his retirement Wednesday, at the top of a career that earned him three consecutive National Basketball Association crowns, two Olympic gold medals and the title of basketball's greatest player.

"I just feel at this particular time in my career, I'm at the pinnacle," Jordan said, flanked at a news conference by his wife, coach Phil Jackson, Chicago Bulls club owner Jerry Reinsdorf and NBA Commissioner David Stern. "I've achieved a lot in that short time."

"I just feel I don't have anything else to prove."

Jordan's departure at the top of his game occurred during a year of unprecedented success — and personal tragedy. He led his Chicago Bulls to a third-straight NBA championship, but also suffered with the murder of his father, James. The 30-year-old superstar, whose salary and endorsements bring him more than \$50 million a year, also was dogged by reports of excessive gambling.

His departure follows the retirement last year of Larry Bird and Magic Johnson, dealing the NBA an incalculable loss.

Jordan's announcement comes one day after a prosecutor in North Carolina said he will seek the death penalty for the 18-year-olds accused of killing James Jordan.

Jordan's father was shot to death July 23. His luxury car was found stripped and his body was discovered in a South Carolina creek two weeks later.

"Naturally when my father died, it put a little different emphasis on life in general," Jordan said.

"My father as everyone knows, has left us. He saw my last basketball game, that means a lot."

But Jordan said his father's death was not the reason he is leaving basketball.

Jordan said his father told him after the Bulls won the first NBA title in 1991 that he should retire.

"At the end of year, after we won the third championship, we talked again," Jordan said. "I was leaning in that direc-



Michael Jordan

tion.

"The desire was not there."

"I'm going to miss the game. I'm going to miss the opportunities to win the extra championships. I'm going to miss it the psychological warfare Phil (Jackson) puts us through for eight months."

"Sometimes you have to look at the future. There are still a lot of things out there to achieve."

"Now that I'm here, it's time to be a little unselfish, to get back to a normal life as much as I can."

Jordan's father's murder was a culmination of unlikely episodes for the NBA's three-time most valuable player award winner. He admitted losing large sums of money in wagers to a convicted North Carolina drug dealer in 1991. He was also the subject of a book in which he was accused of losing more than \$1 million in golf course bets.

The undisputed superstar, however, did not rule out the possibility of a comeback.

"The world retire means you can do anything you want," he said. "Maybe that's the challenge I'll need some time down the road. I'm not going to close the door."

Highlights of Michael Jordan's career

Member of University of North Carolina national championship team in 1982.

Chicago Bulls number one draft choice in 1984 and NBA Rookie of the Year 1984-85.

Member of United States gold medal-winning Olympic teams in 1984 and 1992.

Led Bulls to three straight world championships in 1991, 1992 and 1993.

Won three NBA regular season Most Valuable Player awards: in 1988, 1991 and 1992.

Won three consecutive NBA finals MVPs in 1991-93.

Won seven consecutive NBA scoring titles from 1987-93.

Named NBA All-Star game MVP in 1988.

Bulls' all-time leading scorer and NBA 15th all-time leading scorer with 21,541 points.

Scored career-best 63 points against Cleveland March 28, 1990.

Scored a playoff-record 63 points in a 1986 first-round game against Boston.

Has scored 50 or more points 34 times.

Set an NBA record with 23 consecutive points against Atlanta in 1987.

Holds career record for highest-points per game average in regular season at 32.5.

Holds career record for highest-points per game average in playoffs, 34.6.

In 1989 he tied single-game record for most free throws made in one quarter, 14, against Utah.

Courier reaches quarters

SYDNEY (Agencies) — Jim Courier swept aside Davis Cup player Richard Fromberg Wednesday to reach the last eight of the Australian Indoor Tennis Championships.

Courier had a few anxious moments in the first set when he let slip a 4-0 lead before overpowering the Australian 6-4, 6-3 in 86 minutes.

But the American, who lost the number one ranking to Pete Sampras during last month's U.S. Open, has tried to play down talk of him getting it back.

"If you think about something like that it can be too consuming for me, so I just worry about what I'm doing and let everything else take care of itself," said the 23-year-old.

"The best thing for me is just to worry about what's at hand and not to worry about anything like that because that doesn't help me play better to worry about something that's out of my control ... I just worry about what I can control."

Courier said when he first



Jim Courier

came on the tour he used to fret about his ranking and computer points.

"But now I've learned that I have to forget about that and just try to play the best I can ... we see things a little bit different after time on the tour."

Courier described his second round victory over Fromberg as a "straight up" match, despite the first set appearing to slip away from him.

Fromberg's game improved

immeasurably, and he was soon trading forehands with the American, before the world number two steadied, held his fifth service game before breaking in the 10th with a bullet return that Fromberg could only just get his racket to.

Courier broke Fromberg's serve for a fourth time in the fourth game of the second set, gaining control of a rally to volley home from the net to lead 3-1.

Fromberg served up three straight aces in the eighth game but the match was out of reach with Courier winning it on the second of his three match points.

Courier now takes on the winner of the Jaime Yzaga or earlier Peruvian Yzaga, ranked 54, ousted Californian

scrapper Brad Gilbert in straight sets, while Masur, a semi-finalist at this year's U.S. Open and eighth seed here, conceded just two games in overcoming Dutchman Jacco Eltingh in 56 minutes.

The defeat was a sobering one for Eltingh, who had dumped Courier out of the Malaysian Open second round last week in Kuala Lumpur.

Swede Mikael Pernfors advanced to the quarter-finals with 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 win over local Jamie Morgan, Monday night's conqueror of fifth seeded Dutchman Richard Krajicek.

GOREN BRIDGE
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI
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THE KING IS DEAD
Both vulnerable. East deals.
NORTH: ♠ K Q 9, ♥ J 9 3, ♦ Q 8, ♣ A 8 6 3 2
EAST: ♠ 5 4 3, ♥ 10 8 6 5, ♦ 10 9 7 4 2, ♣ A K
WEST: ♠ J 10 2, ♥ K 7, ♦ 10 9 7 4 2, ♣ J 9 4
SOUTH: ♠ A 7 4, ♥ A 4 2, ♦ A 8 3, ♣ Q 10 7

The bidding:
East South West North
1♥ Pass Pass 2♠
Pass 2NT Pass 3NT
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♥
The meek might not inherit the Earth, but the young are coming to the fore in the world of bridge. Hjordis Eytchordottir, one of Iceland's many promising young stars, sitting East, found a spectacular defense in the Women's Team event at the recent Nordic Championships. North-South arrived at a reason-

LIEBE DEUTSCHE
Ich bin ein Jordanian, such helfe von Ihnen, Ich will gern Deutsch lernen aber nicht viel GELD habe, dafür sie können Arabisch von mir lernen und ich kann Deutsch von euch studieren.
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Low turnout in Pakistan elections

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Pakistanis, fed up with their third national election in five turbulent years, turned out in small numbers at the polls Wednesday even as the popular Benazir Bhutto sought a return to power.

Checks at various polling stations in the country suggested less than half of Pakistan's registered voters had cast ballots by the time the polls closed.

Ms. Bhutto's liberal Pakistan People's Party (PPP) appeared to have a slight edge over the conservative Pakistan Muslim League headed by millionaire industrialist Nawaz Sharif. But there were no reliable opinion polls and most analysts say the race between the two former prime ministers was too close to call.

The party that wins the most votes for the 217-member National Assembly names the prime minister. Final results were expected Thursday morning.

Voters kept away in their thousands from polling booths in Karachi as the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) boycotted national elections, alleging army harassment.

The city's roads, bazaars and polling stations were deserted as the city took on the air of a general strike, witnesses said.

Heavily populated central and eastern Karachi districts, including the volatile Liaquatabad, Azadabad and Orangi sub-districts, witnessed the lowest turnouts and the nearby city of Hyderabad also saw a boycott.

But there was a slightly better showing in Karachi's southern and western districts, including the Lyari slums area where Ms. Bhutto's PPP candidate was pitted against her brother Murtaza Bhutto.

Public transport was thin on the usually bustling city roads, and children taking advantage of the shutdown were seen playing tennis and cricket on main streets.

Voters stayed home in response to the boycott call given Friday by Altaf Hussain, the London-based leader of the MQM which represents the Urdu-speaking Mohajir community, who migrated here from India after partition of the subcontinent in 1949.

Mr. Hussain accused the army of failing to provide security to MQM contestants and workers, and ensuring that they had a "levelled ground for open contests."

It was not clear whether Ms. Bhutto or Mr. Sharif would be able to capture a majority in the National Assembly. Without a majority, the biggest vote-getter could find it difficult to build a stable coalition government with the numerous smaller parties.

Hundreds of supporters mobbed Ms. Bhutto Wednesday when she arrived to vote in the dusty, southern village of Naudero, her hometown. She spent 15 minutes sitting

inside her jeep before police could pull the crowd off the vehicle.

Supporters pressed up against her as soon as she got out, and a relaxed Bhutto, wearing a white flowing dress, smiled and offered her hand to people in the crowd. She voted in the women's section of the segregated polling stations, then promptly folded her ballot the wrong way.

"I can't believe I folded my own ballot wrong," Ms. Bhutto said with a smile as she fixed her mistake.

Mr. Sharif prayed at the Data Sahib shrine, a huge mosque in the eastern city of Lahore, before voting. Hundreds of supporters threw rose petals on his white jeep as he arrived at the polling station and chanted, "Long live Nawaz Sharif."

"People thought there was only one political party in Pakistan," Mr. Sharif said in reference to Ms. Bhutto's party. "But now I think we have changed all that."

Some 150,000 soldiers and tens of thousands of police guarded voting booths and patrolled streets to head off violence. No serious incidents were reported.

Murtaza Bhutto, younger brother of Ms. Bhutto, was quoted Wednesday as saying he would not return home if authorities intended to arrest him on terrorism charges.

Mr. Bhutto, 39, who has been threatening since August to end 16 years in exile in Syria and return as a possible spoiler in the polls, was speaking in interviews published in the United Arab Emirates dailies Gulf News and Khaleej Times.

He said he was confident of winning seats in the National Assembly and provincial parliament which he was contesting in the elections.

"I announced to contest the elections from six National Assembly and 17 provincial assembly seats, but following appeals I agreed to a big climb down to three National Assembly and six provincial assembly seats," he said.

Mr. Murtaza has chosen to contest the PPP in the Karachi slum area of Lyari — the traditional seat of his father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Pakistan's first elected prime minister — and in another strongly pro-PPP seat.

He is wanted in connection with a string of incidents allegedly committed after his father's death in 1979, including involvement in the hijacking of a Pakistani airliner in 1978.

Murtaza said he was ready for reconciliation with authorities in Pakistan but was not willing to surrender.

"I have offered that. I am ready to forget the past if the establishment was willing to reconcile, but it should be an honourable peace," he said.

"I have been told indirectly by the authorities that if I



Benazir Bhutto, leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), casts her vote at Naudero polling station, 17 kilometres from Larkana Wednesday (AFP photo)

return I will have to reveal names details of people who have worked with me. I am not

going to surrender and I will not betray my people," he added.

Officials have said he would be arrested as soon as he arrives in Pakistan.

Clinton's Somalia dilemma — pull out or reinforce?

By Charles Aldinger Reuter

WASHINGTON — Shocking American casualties in Somalia have thrust a Vietnam war-era problem on President Clinton: Build up U.S. forces, reduce them, or withdraw?

Mr. Clinton must deal with growing pressure from Congress to sound a retreat regardless of the cost to superpower prestige after Sunday's deaths of 12 U.S. troops, the wounding of 78 and the spectre of U.S. hostages held in lawless Mogadishu.

"Remaining in Somalia will only cost more U.S. lives, squander U.S. power and commit the United States to an unending quagmire from which we cannot easily withdraw," Republican Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi said in a senate speech on Tuesday.

Military and political analysts added that pleas of "doing what's right" are no longer enough to sustain a U.S. military spearheading of what many see as a vague United Nations plan not only to feed Somalia but return it to political stability.

The critics say pressure is rising in other capitals to reassess the U.N. operation because of military casualties from a number of countries in battles with supporters of fugitive warlord Mohammad Farah Aided.

There is also a growing fear at the Pentagon that the Somalia problem threatens the prestige won by the U.S. military in the Gulf war after

an ignominious retreat from Vietnam, which the military blamed on political undercutting.

At least 23 U.S. troops have died in fighting in Somalia since last December compared to 146 Americans killed in the fighting to drive Iraqi troops from Kuwait in the Gulf war. Although more than 28,000 U.N. troops are deployed in Somalia, they still do not control the capital, Mogadishu.

"The president is faced with a no-win situation," said Joshua Epstein of the Brookings Institution thinktank. "The earlier failure of U.S. troops to press ahead with disarming Somalis is coming home to roost in a terrible way."

ANALYSIS

Representative Patricia Schroeder argued that Mr. Clinton's decision on Monday to send in tanks and at least 200 fresh troops to help protect the 4,500 U.S. troops already in Somalia merely underscores the apparent futility of the operation.

"I don't think we can rebuild a nation by putting in more and more troops... we just become bigger and bigger targets," the Colorado Democrat said in an interview on CNN television.

The Italian news agency ANSA, meanwhile, reported from Rome that Gen. Aided effectively warned Mr. Clinton in a radio broadcast on Monday night that any plan

to boost the U.S. military presence in Somalia would only hurt peace prospects.

Gen. Aided, who has successfully flitted from hideout to hideout ahead of elite, helicopter-borne U.S. troops in Mogadishu, is at the heart of Mr. Clinton's current problem.

Analysts point out that Gen. Aided has been able to control the situation in Mogadishu from hiding and has forced Clinton officials to claim his capture is no longer a top priority.

But the Pentagon's own military maps show that many of the main roads in Mogadishu are dangerous areas for U.N. troops because of heavily-armed Aided supporters carrying weapons ranging from grenade launchers to 50-calibre machine guns that have shot down U.S. attack helicopters.

Despite warnings from some in Congress that the United States simply cannot abandon Mogadishu, others say there is no crime in leaving the country to its own devices.

They note that while the U.S. military presence in Somalia has shrunk sharply from more than 25,000 earlier this year, violence is increasing and the remaining troops are at risk.

"Americans by the dozens are paying with their lives and limbs for a misplaced policy on the altar of some fuzzy multilateralism," said Sen. Robert Byrd, a West Virginia Democrat, in a speech to the Senate.

UAE speaker sees economic boom after Israel-PLO agreement

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deal for limited Palestinian autonomy will trigger an economic boom throughout the Middle East, a senior United Arab Emirates (UAE) official predicts.

"In the atmosphere of peace, economic and trade activity will boom and this will positively affect the Gulf itself," according to Al Haj Ben Abdullah Al Muhairbi, the UAE's parliamentary speaker.

"In the atmosphere of security and freedom, overseas capital will also return to the Middle East and investments will double. Prosperity and progress will then prevail in the Middle East, which enjoys enormous resources."

Mr. Muhairbi made his comments in the magazine of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, of which he is chairman. The article was obtained Wednesday ahead of publication later this week.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have approved the agreement on limited autonomy for Palestinians starting in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho that was signed in Washington

on Sept. 13. It was the first time a GCC official commented on the deal's possible benefits.

The six members — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — are expected to contribute to an international aid package to rescue the Palestinian economy from 26 years of Israeli occupation.

At a meeting of the World Bank in Washington last month, Saudi Arabia pledged \$100 million towards a \$2-billion package for the Palestinians.

"I expect Gulf states to play a key role in cementing peace in the region in the short and long terms," said Yusef Khalifa Al Yusef, economics professor at the Emirates University.

"Do not forget, Gulf states were the biggest aid donors for the Palestinians and other Arabs. They will likely continue to play that role despite a sharp decline in their oil revenues."

GCC states say they have given fellow Arab League members more than \$70 billion over the past two decades, including around \$2.5 billion for the PLO.

Intifada leaders openly running PLO offices

The Jerusalem Post

THE INTIFADA leadership previously only operating underground is now appearing publicly, and is taking control of local security arrangements like the recruitment of Palestinian policemen and preparations for PLO leaders' arrival in Jericho and Gaza.

Thirteen PLO offices have been opened throughout the territories for that purpose, and many more are expected to be opened soon, according to Hussein Sheikh, head of the Ramallah-based PLO offices.

Sheikh said that these offices are run by Fatah members who were leading the intifada and who were active in the Unified Command. "All those who work with the PLO offices were fighters and leaders of the intifada, and most have been in jail. I myself was imprisoned for 11 years. We take our orders directly from the PLO leadership in Tunis."

According to Sari Nusseibeh, a prominent Palestinian from Jerusalem who heads the committee preparing for "autonomy," the members of the PLO offices are the real local leaders, not the delegates to the peace talks.

"Our job is to coordinate local security arrangements with the PLO abroad. Our first assignment was to recruit Palestinians for the police force. In that context, we also recommended to the PLO whom to choose," Sheikh said. According to Sheikh, this is only the PLO offices' first assignment, and they will continue to carry out PLO orders and do whatever the PLO leadership asks of them.

PFLP official resigns as deputy PNC chief

By Wafa Amr Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A senior member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Tayseer Quba'a, has resigned from his post as deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in protest against the PLO's signing of the autonomy accord and for what he described as "excluding and undermining the PLO's legitimate institutions."

"Quba'a will be announcing his resignation from Tunis with the opening of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) meetings," a leading PFLP figure told the Jordan Times on Wednesday.

The PCC will meet next Sunday in Tunis to discuss and ratify the PLO's self-rule agreement with Israel. The 107-member PCC acts as a small parliament and the PNC speaker and his deputies issue the invitations for the PCC meetings.

Sheikh Abdul Hamid Saleh, speaker of the PNC, had announced his intention to submit his resignation earlier this year when the next PNC meets. Mr. Quba'a would announce his resignation at the next PNC meeting, to a new speaker who would be elected to replace Sheikh Sayeh.

The PFLP source said that Mr. Quba'a had already written his resignation letter, which includes protests against the signing of the PLO-Israel accord without consulting the Palestinian people's parliament.

"(PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat has not only signed the agreement without consulting the different factions of the PLO, but he has also marginalised the role of all the organisation's legal institutions," the

source said. He said that Mr. Arafat's objective in calling for the PCC meeting "was to extract false legitimacy for the PLO-Israel agreement."

The source said Mr. Quba'a's resignation was basically an expression of his rejection of the autonomy accord, a reflection of the PFLP's official position.

Saji Salameh, politburo member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said Mr. Quba'a's resignation was consistent with the joint policy of the united leadership of the DFLP and the PFLP. Both leftist factions of the PLO rejected the PLO-Israel accord and announced they had set up a unified leadership which considers itself and any other Palestinian faction still adhering to the PLO's Charter as the continuation of the PLO founded in 1965.

"Arafat and his inner group which signed the agreement have abandoned the PLO's Charter. Therefore they no longer represent the PLO's objectives or the Palestinian people," Mr. Salameh said. "We are the PLO."

Last month, DFLP and DFLP representatives in the PLO's Executive Committee withdrew from the committee in protest against the agreement. The two factions said they were seeking to forge a wide coalition to foil the accord.

A Tunis-based member of the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction and an adviser to Mr. Arafat said "Quba'a's resignation was an unfortunate step. But I think fighting the accord within the framework of the PLO's institutions would bear more fruit... the struggle should be from within."

COLUMN

5 women get 1993 Right Livelihood Award

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The 1993 Right Livelihood Award, often called the alternative Nobel Prize, has been jointly awarded to five women or women-led organisations for their contributions in situations of crisis or conflict, the Right Livelihood Committee announced Wednesday. This year's recipients are Arna Mer-Khanis of Israel and the organisation Care and Learning, the Organisation of Rural Associations for Progress (ORAP) in Zimbabwe, environmental activist Vandana Shiva of India, and Mary and Carrie Dann of the Western Shoshone Nation of North America. The \$200,000 award will be officially presented to the laureates in the Riksdag, the Swedish parliament, on Dec. 9, the eve of the official Nobel Prize ceremony.

Mother Teresa's name 'being used in fraud'

CALCUTTA, India (R) — Mother Teresa said Tuesday her name was being used fraudulently to obtain charitable donations, and urged supporters to send offerings direct to her. "It has come to my notice that some people are raising funds for various charitable purposes using my name," the 83-year-old Roman Catholic nun said at her first ever formal news conference. "No one, no individual, no organisation is authorised at any time and for whatever purpose to collect donations using my name or the name of the Missionaries of Charity." Mother Teresa said she never appealed directly for funds, but those who wished to contribute should send money directly to her Calcutta-based Missionaries of Charity Order. The ethnic-Albanian nun, who was awarded the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize for her work with the poor and sick, declined to say who had been abusing her name. "They are collecting the money under my name and misusing it," she said. She said the practice had been going on for the last two years, both in India and abroad. Those responsible used photographs of her and forged her signature on publicity documents to collect donations, she added. Looking fit after heart surgery three weeks ago, she said she would travel to Shanghai on Oct. 19 at the request of the Chinese government, to set up a home for disabled children. "I am in great health," she said.

Duchess of York to lead expedition

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's Duchess of York is to lead a team of mentally handicapped youngsters to the start of a challenging expedition in the Himalayan Mountains. Sarah Ferguson, the estranged wife of Prince Andrew, Queen Elizabeth II's second son, leaves for Nepal Saturday to join the team from the charity Macintyre Care on the strenuous expedition. The Duchess, who is patron of the charity, will not take part in the climb itself, but will join the long walk to the expedition base camp. The expedition aims to raise both money and awareness of the charity, which is involved in encouraging disabled people to live as independently as possible in care homes. The youngsters are to climb what is known as a "trekking peak" called Poldke. Mountaineer Chris Bonington, who has helped the charity prepare for previous trips, said: "The expedition will give these young people a worthwhile, exciting and stimulating experience." Of the Duchess's involvement, he added: "It is great that she is taking an interest. It is obviously a real interest and it can only help."

New scandal hits Austrian politics

VIENNA (AFP) — Social Affairs Minister Josef Hoesoun was the focus of a new allegation of sexual harassment in Austrian political circles this week over an incident six years ago in which he allegedly touched the breast of a woman deputy. The incident was revived in an article in the independent weekly Profil on macho attitudes among Austrian politicians. Mr. Hoesoun said Monday he planned to sue the magazine for libel.

Witness says he saw van just before New York blast

NEW YORK (R) — A Secret Service agent at the World Trade Centre bombing trial Tuesday proved what could be the first identification of the yellow van prosecutors say was used to blow up the complex last February.

The agent, Jan Gilhooly, said he saw a yellow van in the underground garage just before he was flattened by the explosion. He later admitted that his first official report on the incident made no mention of the van.

Defence lawyers said they were surprised by the testimony of the 18-year veteran who was expected only to recount the death and destruction that followed the blast.

The prosecution alleges that four men now on trial for the bombing used a rented yellow van to take the huge bomb to the underground garage. The four men allegedly planned and executed the bombing to protest against U.S. support for Israel.

It was not clear if the yellow van was the vehicle in question. A parking garage attendant had noted that many vans made deliveries at the parking level and that the Port Authority's own vans are a similar yellow color.

On cross-examination from defence lawyers, Mr. Gilhooly admitted he had not mentioned the van when he gave a report to another Secret Service agent the day after the blast.

He did, however, note that

he had seen a green Volvo parked in a roadway in the garage with its four-way flashers on.

Pressed about the discrepancy by defence lawyer Hassan Abdullah, who represents Mahmud Abu Halima, Mr. Gilhooly said that he had been suffering from post-blast trauma at the time of the first interview.

He said he had been flattened by the explosion. "I felt as though I'd been hit in the face with a baseball bat," he said.

He said he saw a massive orange fireball, leaving the area where the van had been "vapourised."

The agent was thrown 10 to 15 metres and as he started to recover he assessed whether he "was still in one piece."

"My face was covered with blood. My left eye was in pain," he said.

But he said he had not been suffering from amnesia because of the blast. He also acknowledged that as a Secret Service agent, he was trained in observation.

He also said that he was aware of the government's contention that a yellow van had carried the car-bomb.

The testimony, now in its second day, included other accounts of those who had narrow escapes with death from the blast.

Firefighter William Duffy said that when he pried open the doors to a lift stuck on the 44th floor he was hit with a blast of hot air and thick

smoke.

About 10 people were lying "head to toe" on the floor. "It was like opening a tomb," he said. "They looked like they were just coated with charcoal. I thought all of the people in the elevator were dead."

However, the passengers were revived with the help of oxygen and all survived.

Six people died in the Feb. 26 blast. All were in the garage complex where the bomb was placed.

Authorities say the bomb tore a crater through four levels of the underground garage, knocked out the communications system for the while complex and forced a shutdown of the electrical system, leaving hundreds trapped in lifts.

The four on trial, Mohammad Salameh, 25, Nidal Ayyad, 25, Mahmoud Abu Halima, 33, and Ahmad Ajaj, 27, face up to life in prison if convicted.

The prosecution contends they are part of a larger conspiracy by a group of Muslim militants.

They say that the group's spiritual leader is Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, a fiery Egyptian cleric who calls for the overthrow of the government in Cairo from self-imposed exile in the United States.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman has been indicted in the second related case, in which he and others are charged with plotting an unprecedented extremist campaign.

Palestinian leaders split over self-rule options

AFTER five days of secret consultations, Palestinian leaders apparently remained split Tuesday over what type of limited self-rule government to set up in Gaza and Jericho.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has pushed to establish a provisional government but some executive committee members expressed fears Israel would immediately block the effort.

These committee members said Arafat wants to establish a provisional government to lay the foundation for a future Palestinian state.

Arafat has sent messages to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the U.S. government outlining his intention to establish a provisional government, arguing this is compatible with the declaration of principles signed by the PLO and Israel.

Palestinian leaders said Arafat wants to head a provisional government appointed from members of the executive committee and prominent supporters from the territories.

However, committee members want to move more slowly, setting up an interim administration that could win quick Israeli approval and speed the withdrawal of Israeli troops.

"We should move within the context of the agreement and take the realistic political step," said one Palestinian leader after committee members agreed not to discuss the debate with reporters.

So far, the PLO executive committee has only authorised Arafat to set up a Palestinian

committee to take over administration of Gaza and Jericho after the planned Israeli withdrawal, said Mohammad Subaih, the secretary of the Palestine National Council.

He said the committee late Sunday night also authorised Arafat to appoint the members of that committee and the Palestinian members of four other committees that will negotiate with Israel on the extent and timing of the withdrawal.

Subaih said the committee's authorisation must be approved by the Palestine Central Council, scheduled to meet on Oct. 10.

Meanwhile, the nascent Palestinian administration is demanding a leading role in determining how to spend the \$2 billion in international pledges for infrastructure needs, the PLO's chief economist has told the Jerusalem Post.

"I think we have to have an equal say in the choice of projects — that's No. 1. And we have to share in the identification of essential corrections," Yusuf Sayigh said in an interview on the eve of the last week's donors conference here.

"It's unrealistic to think we can do things right away," Sayigh maintained. "There is an element of unreality, almost fantasy in their expectations from us, when they tell us... to achieve this or that. How can this be? We don't have an administration of our own," — The Jerusalem Post.